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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

INSIDE:

Lebanon Pastor to Decide His Own Fate

Has 30 Days to Decide

By Frank Pizzoli

"Outing" – it's not just for gay people anymore.

That's the word Rev. Frank Schaefer uses to describe what has happened to him.

Nov. 18 a jury of 13 United Methodist pastors determined that he had violated church law when he performed a marriage ceremony for his eldest son, Tim, and his male partner in 2007.

The jury ordered Rev. Frank Schaefer suspended from his ministerial duties for 30 days.

"At the end of the 30 days I must respond in writing about whether or not I can adhere to church laws regarding same-sex marriage," Schaefer told *Central Voice*. The United Methodist Church Board of Ordained Ministries will also interview him.

"I think the church was very smart in how they made their decision. They treated me like I was an honest man but deferred judgment to me. I will decide if I can abide by the rules. They also know the eyes of the world are upon them," Schaefer said.

By being an honest man, Schaefer is referring to how he originally handled marrying his son Tim and his partner.

"In the fall of 2006 I put in writing to the Bishop and the church that I would be performing the marriage of my son to his partner," Schaefer explained.

> ***"I will decide if I can abide by the rules. They also know the eyes of the world are upon them."***
>
> ***~Rev. Schaefer***

"I received no response from church leadership." The wedding actually took place in 2007. However, the formal complaint to the church hierarchy from then-fellow parishioner and now former church member Jon Boger did not come until late in 2013.

Boger testified at Schaefer's hearing, a procedure that in many ways mimics a formal court proceeding but is, in fact, a church proceeding that has no standing in the church-and-state separated legal system rooted in the nation's history.

Suspended Methodist Pastor Frank Schaefer
Photo Source: Reconciling Ministries Network

Boger, according to media reports, broke down on the witness stand when questioned by church counsel, describing

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Carlisle Woman Fights Couple's Inheritance Tax

By Frank Pizzoli

If future generations of same-sex couples don't have to pay a 15% Inheritance Tax when a partner dies, they'll have Nancy Nixon to thank. That is unless marriage equality comes to Pennsylvania, a development seen as likely in the near future.

Meanwhile, represented by Attorney Cindy Villanella, Nixon is challenging Pennsylvania's Inheritance Tax regulated by the state Department of Revenue.

Nixon and her partner Jeanne Schartz, now deceased, lived together for 31-years as a couple, both publically and privately. They did not brag. Neither did they apologize. Anyone who knew them with even minor depth recognized them as a loving, committed couple.

Unlike their friends, neighbors, and co-workers, Pennsylvania laws do not recognize Nixon and Schwartz's long-time relationship. Unable to get married in Pennsylvania, the long-time couple hopes to circumvent the state's prohibition against same-sex unions and its subsequent application of tax laws.

Nixon is asking that the state recog-

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Harrisburg Mayor Papenfuse Wants to Hear from You

By Frank Pizzoli

Now that all the confetti has been swept up, Harrisburg's Mayor-elect Eric Papenfuse wants to hear from you.

He and his transition team are all ears.

Possibilities?

Making replacement of street lights a priority as a way to curtail crime.

Placing the city's housing codes department under the Public Safety Department along with police, fire, and emergency management.

Improving Broad Street Market. Papenfuse encourages readers to get involved with the new Broad Street Market Alliance initiative (BroadStreetMarketAlliance.org).

Central Voice asked if he would sign the Mayors for the Freedom to Marry pledge.

He will.

His transition team held a public meeting Dec. 11 to sample public thoughts on improving the city but that was just a beginning. "It's not enough just to have one big meeting …. We will do this again soon, in the new year.""We want to make sure that the public is engaged in the transition process and that people have a chance to voice their concerns and offer their solutions," Papenfuse said about his new administration.

Papenfuse

Dec. 11 Papenfuse said, "The racial divisions in our community trouble me greatly." Half of his 14-member transition team is drawn from the African-American community. He noted that "People want to see Harrisburg move forward like never before."

There are transition teams looking into Public Safety, Economic and Community Development, Administration, Public Works, Education and Youth, Communications, and Arts, Culture and Tourism.

Papenfuse shares with *Central Voice*

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Starting Up by Breaking Out pg 30

Who's Our Creep of the Week? pg 26

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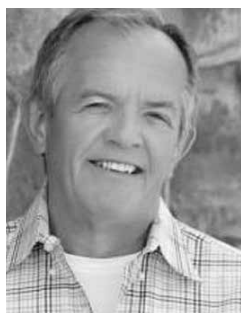
Political Update

Tea Party Over: Congressman Busted

There's many a slip between the cup and the lip. And Republican Congressman Henry 'Trey' Radel from Florida may be one of those slips. He has been busted in a Washington, D.C. cocaine sting. The Tea Party Congressman and former talk show host had called for the impeachment of the President. Ironically he also demanded that Food Stamp recipients be drug tested since he felt addicts were the only ones getting them. He also was a vocal opponent of LGBT rights, ENDA and marriage equality on moral grounds. Radel apologized to his constituents, acknowledging he struggles with alcoholism and intends to seek treatment and counseling.

First PA Gay Mayor; Seattle Too



Pennsylvania elected its first openly-gay mayor when Doylestown Borough Democrat Ronald Strouse last November received 51 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Bruce Rutherford. Strouse garnered 1,179 votes to Rutherford's 1,106.

Strouse, 65, has lived in the borough for more than a decade where he is a chef, manages two restaurants and the Doylestown Human Relations Commission.

Wash. State Sen. Ed Murray, promising a more collaborative leadership style, commanded 56% of the vote compared to 43 % for incumbent Mayor Mike McGinn.

Murray, 58, is Seattle's first openly-gay mayor. His campaign capitalized on his signature legislative accomplishment of participating in the 2012 campaign legalizing same-sex marriage in Washington. He married his longtime partner Michael Shiosaki last summer.

Annise Parker won a third term as Houston mayor, America's fourth largest city. Celia Israel advanced to a run-off in Texas, giving voters the chance to elect a second LGBT voice in the state House. West Hollywood, population 34,781 and 1.9 square miles, has four out of five openly-gay members on city council.

Wash., DC Has Highest Percentage of LGBT Adults

The New York Times reports: When the District of Columbia is compared with the 50 states, it has the highest percentage of adults who identify as LGBT, according to Gallup. At 10 %, that is double the percentage in the state that ranks No. 2, Hawaii, and nearly triple the overall national average of 3.5%. The numbers are based on Census Bureau figures. The Census Bureau looked at where the highest percentage of same-sex couple households were and also found that the District of Columbia ranked far higher than the 50 states, with 4 percent. The national average is just under 1 percent.

Harrisburg has the fourth highest concentration of same-sex households among cities and boroughs in the state, according to 2010 US Census figures released by UCLA's William's Institute. Three hundred and eighteen households reported themselves as same-sex couples which accounts for 15.45 of every 1,000 couples in the capital city. According to the institute's 2010 Census analysis, 22,336 same-sex couples are living in Pennsylvania, representing 4.5 same-sex couples per 1,000 households.

The New NORML

Democrat candidate for Pennsylvania governor John Hanger was endorsed by the national leadership of the marijuana reform organization NORML on Nov. 13.

His campaign media machine noted "The endorsement signals that marijuana reform is emerging as a pivotal issue in the governor's race." Hanger's endorsement is the first time the group, which advocates for legalization of responsible marijuana use, has made a gubernatorial endorsement in Pennsylvania. Hanger has made marijuana reform an important priority of his campaign. He was joined in three locations by NORML representatives to announce the endorsement - Erik Altieri and Chris Goldstein, Philadelphia; Patrick Nightingale, Pittsburgh.

State Sen. Mike Folmer, R-Lebanon County, will co-sponsor a bill to legalize medical marijuana in Pennsylvania, not the same as full legalization. The other sponsor will be state Rep. Daylin Leach, a Philadelphia-area Democrat who previously introduced such as a bill. Leach and Folmer plan to detail their proposal on Monday. Folmer said, "medical cannabis is a plant that has been put here by God to be used for our benefit."

State Rep. Schreiber Hosts Spanish-speaking Office Hours

State Rep. Kevin Schreiber, D-York, is now hosting Spanish-speaking mobile office hours with the help of Centro Hispano José Hernandez, 225 E. Princess St., York. Visits are the first and third Thursday of each month. Beginning in January Schreiber will host mobile offices in West York and Spring Garden. Info: Sully Pinos, spinos@pahouse.net; 717-845-9595.

"Right choice" says PA Health Care Association

"Governor Corbett's 'Healthy PA' proposal is the right choice for Pennsylvania.

It will expand health care for nearly a half million people without further straining our already-unsustainable state Medicaid program. I applaud Governor Corbett for his commitment to creating a Pennsylvania-specific plan that will bring greater health care affordability, accessibility and quality, while still assuring that services to the elderly and disabled are not reduced. The request for a Medicaid waiver is an important next step in the process and I urge the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to approve this waiver. expeditiously, and I call on consumers, providers, and our congressional delegation to urge quick action," said Stuart H. Shapiro, M.D., president, Pennsylvania Health Care Association. PHCA is a statewide advocacy organization of for-profit, nonprofit and government members with 425 long-term care and senior service providers caring for 45,000 elderly and disabled individuals.

Student Senate Nixes "Homosexual"

Anyone know for sure what "non-marital consensual deviate sexual intercourse" is?

Baylor University's student Senate voted to remove the phrase "homosexual acts" from its code of conduct and replace it with the phrase "non-marital consensual deviate sexual intercourse." The most recent version of the Sexual Misconduct Code was established on Jan. 15, 2007. It reads, "In all disciplinary procedures, Baylor University will seek to be redemptive in the lives of the individuals involved and to witness to the high moral standards of the Christian faith.

"Baylor will be guided by the understanding that sexuality is a gift from the creator God and that the purposes of this gift include (1) the procreation of human life and (2) the uniting and strengthening of the marital bond in self-giving love. These are to be achieved through heterosexual relationships within marriage. Missuses of God's gift will be understood to include but not limit to, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, sexual assault, incest, adultery, fornication, and homosexual acts."

Central Bucks Denies Benefits to Same-Sex Couple

Residents of the Central Bucks School District rallied Oct. 22 in favor of same-sex spousal benefits for staff at a school board meeting. All 13 speakers during a public comment period spoke in support of extending benefits to same-sex couples.

A school district employee addressed her denied request for spousal, benefit coverage. She is legally married in Delaware to her spouse. The employee was told that wording in the district's insurance policy prevented the school from offering her spouse benefits. However, Human Resources Committee draft Minutes from Oct. 9 indicate the committee recommended not allowing same-sex spousal benefits until same-sex marriage is legal in Pennsylvania.

Board president Stephen Corr said at the meeting anticipated the employee would file a grievance, and has reportedly entered into arbitration with the staff member.

Want to Reconnect with Your Religious Side?

How do we get in touch with our chosen-ness when we are surrounded by rejection?

That's the question asked by Mechanicsburg's St. Paul's United Church of Christ, an open and affirming church in the tradition of the United Church of Christ.

For readers troubled by religious matters, a program by St. Paul's is a way to "Begin a journey to reconcile the pain and disconnect that exists in our communities."

The program runs Jan., Feb. 27, March 27 and April 24, 7–9 p.m., St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 626 Williams Grove Rd., Mechanicsburg.

Who should attend?

Members and friends of the LGBTQIA communities who are searching, wondering whether God and religious communities have anything positive to offer them.

The program flyer says "Why Here? Why Now? We recognize churches have been the source of great pain and rejection; some still are. We believe everyone is a beloved child of God, just as they are. We will read and discuss 'Life of the Beloved' as together we search for God's radical love. We are God's chosen ones, even when our world does not choose us."

Light refreshments will be served and childcare is available.

To register or for additional information, contact Rev. John Ward−Diorio, 717−766−7931 or revjohnwd@verizon.net. Info: saintpaulsucc-mech.org.

Gay and Progressive Politics Are Not Strange Bedfellows

Frank Pizzoli

Politics makes strange bedfellows. But there is nothing strange about the forces of gay politics and Progressive ideas crawling under the covers for a warm embrace.

When Hartford (Conn.) Courant editor Charles Dudley Warner (1829 - 1900) and friend of Mark Twain made his pronouncement he could not have foreseen the state of affairs for today's LGBT individuals and issues of economic justice.

Although 12-year old Queers for Economic Justice is closing due to funding crunches, their mission remains noble: To challenge and change systems that create poverty and economic injustice...and to promote an economic system that embraces sexual and gender diversity. Economic justice and sexual and gender diversity are not strange bedfellows.

Amber Hollibaugh, QEJ founder, recently repeated to Central Voice what she told a larger media audience.

"It's profoundly disquieting that in the midst of the current economic crisis, you have no idea that the recession had an impact on our community. It makes me insane, because this idea that all LGBT people are wealthy, and mostly white is a dangerous myth," she said.

There were 46.5 million people living in poverty in 2012. That means about 1.4 million of them were in the gay community.

Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues in "Out for Change: Racial and Economic Justice Issues in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Communities" and the Center for American Progress note the economic difficulties within the gay community.

Ongoing discrimination against LGBT workers leaves them economically vulnerable and makes it difficult for them to financially provide for their families, the center reports.

Almost one in four children living with a male same-sex couple and 19.2 % of children living with a female same-sex couple are in poverty, compared to 12.1 % of children living with married different-sex couples.

Furthermore, 14.1 % of lesbian couples and 7.7 % of gay male couples receive assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, compared to 6.5 % of different-sex married couples.

Black LGBT people in particular lag behind in multiple areas of economic security due to the heightened vulnerability that stems from race-based and anti-LGBT discrimination and stigma.

The LGBT community is economically and racially diverse despite media depictions of gay families as financially secure and predominately white. In fact, a 2012 Gallup poll revealed that nonwhites were more likely than their white counterparts to identify as LGBT, with African Americans topping the chart as the racial and/or ethnic group most likely to identify as LGBT.

This security in their identity as LGBT people does not make them immune to the effects of bias and discrimination. Black LGBT people are more likely to be living in poverty than their peers, and black same-sex couples have poverty rates at least twice the rate of black different-sex married couples.

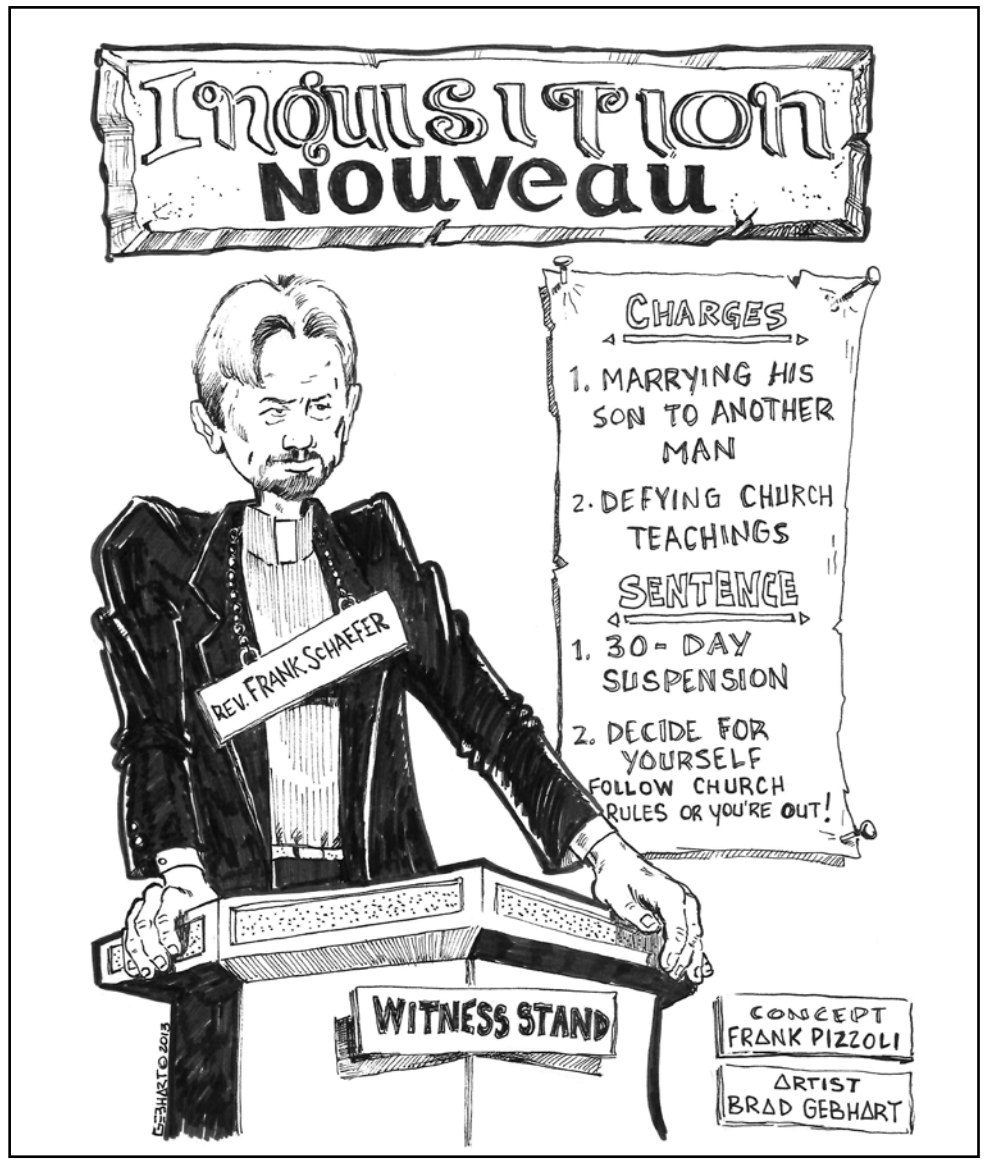
Black men in same-sex relationships are more than six times as likely to be in poverty than white men in same-sex couples—18.8 % to 3.1 %, respectively—and black women in same-sex relationships are three times more likely to be poor than white women in same-sex relationships—17.9 % to 5.1 %, respectively.

Trying to find an LGBT organization that does more than pay lip service to the idea that "the gay" and economic issues go hand-in-hand is like trying to find a virgin at an orgy.

"It seems to me the mainstream LGBT movement groups depend on labor for muscle and mostly don't return the favor on economic justice issues. In fact, the LGBT groups take big corporate donations from some of the worst actors in the corporate world (Citibank, Walmart, Paul Singer, David Koch, etc.) which buys those companies and individuals good will and makes the groups shut up about their injustices," observes Andy Humm, co-host with Ann Northrup of New York City's Gay USA weekly news broadcast.

Humm means economic injustices.

One way to measure - and reward - companies with gay laurels is to include questions around economic issues of social justice. Perhaps someday a high HRC rating will reflect a commitment to both gay and economic justice issues.



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voice box

GAY AND PROGRESSIVE

"...this is an excellent article!" (Gay and Progressive, Sept-Oct 2013)

Adrian Shanker, Equality PA president, 2011-2013

HISTORY PROJECT

Thank you so much for the exposure for the History Project and all your support!

Barry Loveland, History Project Coordinator

ABOUT TIME

It's about time. Now all we need is the right to be who we are, gay or transgender in public without being ridiculed and called sick or perverted or fear losing our families, wives and children.

Marilyn, a reader

E-mail your thoughts to Central VOICE posops@aol.com

Houston Offers Partners Benefits

Houston Mayor Annise Parker announced the city will begin offering benefits to the same-sex partners of city employees if they are legally married in another state. In 2001, Houston voters approved a charter amendment banning domestic partner benefits. However, Parker reportedly believes the amendment is unconstitutional in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's June decision striking down the Defense of Marriage Act. Houston will join other cities including Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth and San Antonio in offering DP benefits in Texas. However, Parker's announcement could set up a legal battle with Republican Attorney General Greg Abbott, who issued a non-binding opinion in April saying he believes domestic partner benefits offered by local government entities are illegal under Texas' constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Abbott is running for governor in 2014. Mayor Parker is a second generation native Houstonian. She and her life partner Kathy Hubbard have been together for more than 20 years and are advocates for adoption, with two adopted daughters and a son.

Illinois Gov. Quinn Inks Marriage Equality

More than 2,000 members of the LGBT community, their friends, families and allies, gathered Nov. 20 to watch Gov. Pat Quinn sign SB10 into law, bringing marriage equality to Illinois effective June 1, 2014. Illinois is now officially the 16th U.S. state to have marriage equality. In a nod to the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, which fell the day before, Quinn signed the historic legislation on one of Abraham Lincoln's desks, which was shipped in from Springfield for the occasion.

Marriage on the Rocks

BuzzFeed reports that the National Organization for Marriage ended 2012 with a $1 million deficit. According to Internal Revenue Service records, NOM, a leader in the fight against same-sex couples' marriage rights, was more than $2.7 million in the red because of its political advocacy arm's spending. The organization's educational arm ended fiscal year 2012 with just over $1.6 million in the bank. Raising nearly $14.5 million in 2012, the organization reported spending nearly $16.5 million during the year. The group unsuccessfully fought three marriage equality ballot measures and one state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex couples from marriage in November 2012.

Evangelicals Shifting on Marriage Equality

A March 2013 survey of nearly 1,000 white evangelicals by the Public Religion Research Institute, a nonpartisan polling organization, found half of those under 35 favored same-sex marriage, compared with just 15% of those over 65. As the world has witnessed the dramatic change in the Roman Catholic Church with the ascension of Pope Francis, an equally powerful shift has been taking place among evangelicals. Like the Pope, the change is not so much as doctrine but in priorities and pulling back from the politics that has polarized the church.

Size Anyone?

Harpers Ferry, West Virginia now has three of its seven council members who are gay. With a population 286 it municipality is thought to be the smallest town in America to have passed a non-discrimination ordinance. Meanwhile, St. Petersburg, Florida now also has three gay council members out of seven members total.

Hagel Directs National Guards on Benefits

Chris Johnson reports in the Washington Blade that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel will direct national guards throughout the country to process benefit applications for troops in same-sex marriages regardless of their state laws. Same-sex marriage is not recognized in Pennsylvania.

Hate-crime Charges in Bus Attack

Prosecutors have filed hate-crime charges against a 16-year-old boy, saying he set aflame the skirt of a teenage gender-identity activist while the victim was asleep on a bus in Oakland, then admitted to police that he had started the fire because he was "homophobic." Richard Thomas of Oakland was charged as an adult with aggravated mayhem, assault and hate-crime enhancements in connection with an attack on Luke Fleischman, 18, whose legs were severely burned. After Thomas made a brief afternoon appearance in an Oakland courtroom, where he did not enter a plea, his mother apologized and expressed sympathy for Fleischman. She said her son regretted his actions and wanted to write an apology letter to Fleischman. "My son is not a hateful person," said Thomas' mother, who would identify herself only as Ms. Jackson. "He's not homophobic. He's a kid. Kids joke around. I think he will learn his lesson. He's very remorseful. I'm sorry for it."

Immigration is a Local Issue

Submitted by Christian R. Herr
Executive Vice President, PennAg Industries Association

As a youngster, we were taught that "many hands make light work." This sentiment resonates throughout agriculture because "many hands" are not readily available to us for milking cows, harvesting crops, planting tree seedlings, and collecting poultry. This lack of availability could ultimately impact food reaching the grocery store shelf and your dinner table.

The agriculture community is two percent of the population embracing the challenge of feeding nine billion people by 2050. For us, immigration is not a citizenship issue nor is it a border state issue. It is a real-life, complex issue impacting the food supply chain. Immigration is an issue needing resolution at the Congressional level; however, it is important that you know how immigration impacts Pennsylvania agriculture.

With agriculture as the number one industry in Pennsylvania, generating $6.7 billion in cash receipts and $67 billion in total economic impact, the Commonwealth's agriculture producers and related businesses require a reliable, trained and legal workforce in order to produce a safe and secure food supply.

Our immigration system is a broken relic of the past. We need a workable solution to the barriers that make it difficult for Pennsylvania's farmers to secure a reliable, dependable and consistent workforce. The agricultural industry needs real, meaningful immigration reform that will encapsulate the many shortcomings of our current policy; mainly addressing the antiquated visa system, the temporary worker program, and of course, enforcement of the law. All too often, the current system tragically turns away the very kind of workers who could have an immediate impact on Pennsylvania's agricultural industry, which struggles to find a workforce needed to harvest our food supply.

For more than 100 years, PennAg Industries Association has been the leading advocate for the hard-working men and women of Pennsylvania's agricultural industry. And while the industry has changed greatly over the past 100 years, our mission has remained fairly unchanged, and it is for that reason we respectfully urge Pennsylvania's congressional delegation to take the time necessary to come up with a comprehensive, enforceable immigration solution that will work for our country and our Commonwealth's farms.

5th LGBT Ambassador Confirmed

The US Senate has unanimously confirmed HRC board member James "Wally" Brewster, Jr. to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic. When nominated, Brewster served as senior executive, SB&K Global, a consulting firm. Prior to 2013, three openly-gay people had served as US Ambassadors - Jim Hormel, Michael Guest and David Huebner.). During 2013, five openly-gay people have been confirmed as Ambassadors - Brewster, John Berry in Australia, James Costos in Spain, Rufus Gifford in Denmark, and Daniel Baer as ambassador to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Ban Lifted on HIV-positive Organ Transplants

President Barack Obama has signed into law the HIV Organ Policy Equity Act, called the HOPE Act, and ends a decades-long federal ban on allowing donated HIV-positive organs from being translated into HIV-positive patients. By lifting the research ban, Obama said a door has been opened that could "lead to life-saving organ donations for people living with HIV while ensuring the safety of the organ transplant process and strengthening the national supply of organs for all who need them." According to the Human Rights Campaign, more than 100,000 patients are currently waiting for organ transplants, with about 50,000 added each year. Permitting HIV-positive organ transplants in HIV-positive patients with liver or kidney failure could save up to 1,000 people per year.

Israeli President Backs Marriage Rights

Shimon Peres jas publicly backed marriage rights for same-sex couples, according to the Washington Blade. "Even a person who is a homosexual is a human being, and he has rights," he told the news website Ynetnews.

"We cannot take away someone's rights because they are different. We cannot take away their right to breathe, right to eat or right to start a family. We must allow everyone to live as is natural to them." Ynetnews reported Peres' comments came in response to questions about a bill that seeks to extend civil partnerships to same-sex couples. The Israeli government recognizes legally performed same-sex marriages in other countries.

> I was against gay marriage until I realized I didn't have to get one.
>
> **- James Carville**

your voice

High School Girls Rally Forth on Breast Cancer Awareness

By Frank Pizzoli

"I think so," answered Brianna Hawk, 16, when asked by *Central Voice* if she would do it all again knowing the controversy she and a friend's actions have caused.

The controversy is a court battle between Hawk, Kayla Martinez, 14, and Easton Area School District over "I (heart) Boobies!" bracelets.

Brianna Hawk and Kayla Martinez

Back in 2010, Hawk, then 13, and Martinez, then 12, set out to promote awareness of breast cancer at their middle school. Hawk had been wearing one of the bracelets since the beginning of that school year. No one had objected.

Then came a formal Breast Cancer Awareness Day that year and that's when their troubles began. Legal challenges and counter challenges over wearing the bracelets in school are now working their way through the court system.

Molly Tack-Hooper, American Civil Liberties Union attorney representing the students, explains that she learned through litigation that teachers had been told at the start of the school year in 2010 not to allow students to wear the bracelets. "Unfortunately, this decision was never announced to the students," Tack-Hooper said.

Hawk says she was told the day before the breast cancer event that she could no longer wear the bracelet. That's when Hawk and Martinez swiftly challenged the school's ban on wearing the bracelets. They were suspended and consequently filed suit.

After working its way through the judicial system, in August 2013 the 3rd US Circuit Court of Appeals eventually rejected the school's claim the bracelets are lewd and should be banned from school. The circuit court said the district did not prove the bracelets are disruptive.

Then last November, the school district board voted 7-1 to appeal the August decision that rejected their claim of lewd and disruptive. At press time, the district had asked for an extension lasting until Dec. 3 to file its appeal requesting that the US Supreme Court review their case.

"The issue could be settled by the US Supreme Court," Tack-Hooper says, not because the judges *will* hear the appeal but because they will decide *not* intervene. "The Supreme Court hears less than 1% of the cases it is asked to review," she explains. "We will, of course, respond by asking that the court not take the case under consideration."

Meanwhile, Hawk reflects on her experience.

"I really like history especially studying the U.S. Constitution," Hawk says. "I take the First Amendment seriously." She continues to wear the bracelet as her case works its way through the courts. Her friends have shown support by also wearing the bracelet.

Tack-Hooper says speech about important issues like breast cancer "is certainly at the core of what the First Amendment is supposed to protect." She's pleased, she says, that "the Court of Appeals has made it clear schools can't justify censorship based on the fact that not everyone is comfortable with the word 'boobies' or the idea of discussing breast health."

Tack-Hooper thinks the case may turn out to be a "win-win" for more than just the controversy surrounding use of the bracelets as an educational tool within schools. "Other students in the future who may want to express themselves in different ways will have their right of expression affirmed if the Supreme Court does not choose to review and decide on the case," she notes. In deciding not to review the case, the lower court's determination that the bracelets are not lewd or disruptive stands.

Every story has two sides.

School district solicitor John Freund has said the district has the backing of the National School Boards Association and the Pennsylvania School Board Association. He said they and other organizations are "concerned about the implications of a hyper-sexualized environment," The (Easton) Express-Times reported.

The lone board member to vote against the appeal said the district should just drop the matter.

"I think we should be done with it. Let it go. We lost 20, 30 times, I don't even know anymore," Pintabone said. He was referring to procedural steps along the way as the case reached its current juncture.

Easton is one of several school districts around the country to ban the bracelets, which are distributed by the nonprofit Keep A Breast Foundation of Carlsbad, CA.

Gay-friendly Mayor, Also Gov Candidate, Re-elected

Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski easily defeated candidate W. Michael Donovan by capturing 62% of the vote as he was re-elected Allentown mayor last November. Pawloski has signed on to Mayors for the Freedom to Marry, a nonpartisan group of mayors who believe that all people should be able to share in the love and commitment of marriage.

Pawlowski

"We won in every corner of the city," said Pawlowski. "I'm humbled, I'm honored and I'm ready to get back to work. Our job here isn't finished and we're not stopping yet."

Pawlowski received a call from Vice President Joe Biden who congratulated him on his re-election and wished him luck in his gubernatorial campaign.

Back in September, Pawlowski announced that he was running for Governor. With his recent re-election, Pawloski noted that his 24% margin of victory was larger than many of his gubernatorial Democratic opponents in past races.

"I think this shows the base of support that I have is tremendous. Voters in Allentown recognize what we have accomplished in the transformation of Allentown, and now we're going to tell the success story of Allentown across Pennsylvania in the governor's campaign," Pawloski said in a news release.

Profile:

Cindy Dunn, New CEO, PennFuture

By Central Voice

PennFuture recently announced the appointment of Cindy Adams Dunn as president and CEO of the statewide environmental advocacy organization. Dunn arrives from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), where she was deputy secretary for conservation and technical services.

Adams Dunn

Dunn tells *Central Voice* her top priority is to protect laws already in place that safeguard the environment.

"We need to remain vigilant and ensure that citizens of the Keystone State have clean air, land and water," she said.

Currently Dunn is monitoring a bill that the organization thinks would inject politics into how the state's threatened and endangered species are classified. If passed, the measure "could do harm to wildlife across".

The green group also works with coalitions all around the state.

"We're fighting for clean air in western Pennsylvania as part of the Breathe Project, and protecting our rivers and streams mid-state as part of the Choose Clean Water Coalition that aims to clean up the Chesapeake Bay and its upstream tributaries," Dunn points out.

The organization also seeks to grow the ranks of its individual membership category.

"Our work is for the benefit of the people of Pennsylvania, so we want them to partner with us. There are many ways they can do that, and membership is a very good start," Dunn said.

What do surveys – theirs and others – indicate the public, their potential members, thinks about environmental issues in Pennsylvania?

Dunn, who has spent 30 years working in recreation and conservation, points to the Growing Greener II bond issue as an example of strong public support. PennFuture worked on the $650 million bond issue a number of years ago. The program provided more than funded conservation and environmental protection projects.

The bond program was initiated, Dunn says, "during tough economic times and yet, more than 70 % supported additional government spending for this project. Surveys, she claims, continue to show an increased interest in the environment.

What issues are on the horizon?

Public lands, clean air, water quality. "We're engaged on all of these fronts. A lot of our work is on renewable energy because it is ultimately the most effective way to address carbon pollution," Dunn explains, adding Pennsylvania contributes fully 1 % of global carbon pollution. "If we are part of the problem, we need to be part of the solution, and investing in solar and wind will not only help address the impacts of climate change, it will provide the jobs of the future and strengthen our economy right here at home."

Krenz and Meehan United in Marriage

Mr. Bill Krenz and Mr. Matthew Meehan were united in marriage on Saturday, November 30, 2013 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in New York City, NY. The ceremony was officiated by the Rev. Mark E. Erson. The grooms' parents hosted a dinner and reception in Greenwich Village, NY, following the service. On the eve of the wedding, Ms. Sandra Barends, of the wedding party, hosted a rehearsal dinner at Becco's Restaurant before seeing a Broadway musical, 'A Night With Janice Joplin'.

The groom is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. William F. Krenz, of Halifax, PA. The groom is the son of Mr. John Meehan, and the late Rebecca Meehan, of Carlisle, PA. Meehan is the grandson of Mr. Jack Meehan, of Ashville, NC. The flower girls were Isabella Del Sol and Maijan Del Sol, of Dauphin, PA. The ring bearer was Ocean Del Sol, also of Dauphin, PA.

Groom Meehan wore his army dress blue uniform.

Best man of the groom was Mr. Kristopher Krenz, brother of the groom, of Brick, NJ, and Ms. Sandra Barends, Friend of the Groom, of Dauphin, PA. Best man of the groom was Mr. Geo Mosco, friend of the groom, of Philadelphia, PA, and Mr. Scott Heblow, of Harrisburg, PA.

Bill and Matthew will continue to reside in Dauphin, PA.

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Region Observes Transgender Day of Remembrance

By Central Voice

Nov. 20 about 70 LGBT individuals, organizations, and allies observed Transgender Day of Remembrance Nov. 20 on the steps of the Pennsylvania Capital.

The annual remembrance honors Rita Hester, whose murder on Nov. 28, 1998 kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Hester's murder - like most anti-transgender murder cases - has yet to be solved.

Although not every person represented during the Day of Remembrance self-identified as transgender - that is, as a transsexual, cross-dresser, or otherwise gender-variant -many were a victim of violence based on bias against transgender people or were themselves overwhelmed with despair.

Nov. 12 was National Day of Remembrance and all through the month communities hosted events, including Bethlehem, Collegeville, Drexel Hill, Kutztown, Kutztown University, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Chatham University, Reading, Washington, West Chester University, University of Pennsylvania, and Penn State.

Jeanine Rusman

Transgender Day of Remembrance Nov. 20 on the steps of the Pennsylvania Capital.

June 9 Trial Date for PA Gay-marriage Ban Challenge

U.S. District Judge John E. Jones III has set June 9 as the trial date for a lawsuit challenging Pennsylvania's gay-marriage ban. In the process, Jones rejecting a request by defendants to delay the proceeding. The two major defendants are the Pennsylvania secretaries of the departments of Health and Revenue.

Jones said, the Associated Press and ABC News reported, a defense request to delay the trial until August would be unnecessary. "I'm an optimist by nature," he said.

Pennsylvania is the only northeastern state that bars same-sex marriage. Nationally, Illinois this week joined 15 other states and the District of Columbia in allowing it.

State Attorney General Kathleen Kane, a Democrat who took office in January, has refused to defend the law in court, saying it violates the state and federal constitutions.

William Lamb, a former state Supreme Court justice who heads the private legal team that Republican Gov. Tom Corbett hired to defend the state officials, said he plans to appeal Jones' ruling to the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals by next week.

The defendants' motion cited a 1972 U.S. Supreme Court decision to argue that federal courts lack jurisdiction over state marriage laws. But Jones said that decision has been eroded by the court's subsequent rulings on constitutional challenges based on sex or sexual identity.

"The jurisprudence of equal protection and substantive due process has undergone what can only be characterized as a sea change since 1972," Jones said in his opinion.

Sims, McCarter Introduce Marriage Equality Bill

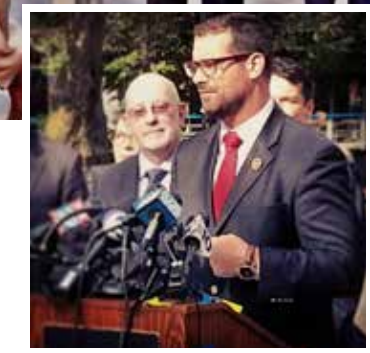
Against the backdrop of Love Park, state Reps. Brian Sims, D-Phila., and Steve McCarter, D-Montgomery/Phila announced introduction Oct. 3 of H.B. 1686, the Pennsylvania Marriage Equality Act.

"The majority of Pennsylvanians now support marriage equality, and that support continues to grow," Sims said. "Neighboring states, including New York, Maryland and Delaware, have all decided to be on the right side of history and have granted equal rights to their LGBT citizens. The time has come for Pennsylvania's legislature to stand up and let our citizens know we see them as truly equal members of society and they have the right to choose whom they marry.

"With the Supreme Court ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act, it became apparent that Pennsylvania cannot continue to be stuck in the past. This is a civil rights issue facing our LGBT community. Furthermore, this issue is holding back Pennsylvania's economy. People and businesses are seeing states that have true marriage equality as more attractive to them, and they're spending their money in those states. This lack of equality is holding us back. Where are we at in our government where you lose rights by crossing a border?"

Sims and McCarter have been gathering co-sponsors and have received bipartisan support for H.B. 1686.

"This goes beyond simply legalizing gay marriage," McCarter said. "This is about ensuring all Pennsylvanians have equal benefits and protections before the law. Marriage equality and the benefits associated with it need to be afforded to all of our citizens, and the people of Pennsylvania support that idea. The issue is getting our fellow legislators to listen to their constituents and the voice of Pennsylvanians who are calling for this bill to proceed."



Rep. Brian Sims (at microphone) and Rep. Steve McCarter announce introduction of Pennsylvania Marriage Equality Act.

Photos by House Democratic Caucus

"An ever-growing majority of Pennsylvanians now agree that all consenting adults should be able to make life-long commitments to the ones they love," said Rep. Dan Frankel, D-Allegheny, co-chairman of the legislature's LGBT Equality Caucus. "I believe the institution is strengthened when families – gay and straight – can choose the rights and responsibilities of civil marriage."

"We're in a situation now where we're galvanized," McCarter added. "The ruling on DOMA made it apparent that marriage equality is the correct direction for Pennsylvania to follow. With a companion bill in the Senate, there is no better time for Pennsylvanians to contact their legislators and tell them now is the time to act. We can no longer afford to sit on the sidelines and watch as the rest of the country evolves to accept what should already be state law."

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Follow Up:

Cuba Comments Irk Local Man

By Frank Pizzoli

"Talk to the man who owns one," is a euphemism for going to the source.

That's not what Philadelphia Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell did says Harrisburg's Dr. José Venereo, a local veterinarian who fled Cuba at the age of four with his parents.

Last month *Central Voice* chronicled his amazing story. *(Read his story at the centralvoice.ning.com)*

What prompted Venero's ire about Blackwell's comments?

Blackwell and Councilman Jim Kenney co-sponsored a unanimously passed measure calling for Philadelphia schools to add to *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn to its history curriculum. A best seller, the book was a 1981 finalist for the National Book Award.

Then, last November in a radio interview on the Zinn book recommendation with popular Philadelphia talk show host Dom Giordano, Blackwell said former Cuban Dictator Fidel Castro was not all bad. Although not mentioned by Blackwell, Castro conducted the mass murder of thousands of Cubans. The island nation is now lead by Raul Castro, Fidel Castro's brother.

Zinn, who died in 2010, was an American historian, author, playwright, and social activist. Historically, the book has received praise for its perspective of history from the point of view of the victims — Indians, slaves, and women.

Zinn makes little mention of Castro's mass murders and political prison camps in the book. Blackwell did admit early on she had not read the book. When she spoke to *Central Voice* about the bruhaha, she was working her way through Chapter 1. Kenney's Legislative Director Jim Engler previously told *Media Trackers* that Kenney had read the book twice.

But Zinn's book has also been heavily criticized for presenting a "revisionist" and "apologetic" history that some claim is factually flawed. He calls the Declaration of Independence "a cynical effort to manipulate people into rebelling against the King for the sole purpose of enriching a handful of already-wealthy white males."

During his radio show, Giordano noted the book's apologist tendencies for Castro and China's Communist Leader Mao Zedong, both responsible for mass murders in their countries.

Venero

Still Blackwell defended Castro. "Castro didn't do everything wrong, or else he wouldn't have lasted so long," she told Giordano.

Venero differs in his view. He's the guy who owns one. He was born in Cuba and fled with his family first to Spain and then to the US.

"Perhaps, Castro did everything right for his own personal gain," Venero told *Central Voice*, reacting to Blackwell's remarks.

"He took away the power from the Cuban people by being deceitful. He promised freedom and took everything away. Castro destroyed the will of the people to fight, thus he remained in power for so long," Venero says.

As he explained in his own family's story, "Their houses and land were confiscated under Castro's policy of redistributing wealth." Both Venero's grandfathers were successful Cubans who met the Castro regime's disfavor and who were jailed for speaking out.

Regarding Blackwell's commendation of Castro for his "acceptance" of different races, Venero retorted, "Yes, everyone in Cuba is equally screwed. Unless you betrayed your family and friends, you did not get anything" from Castro's regime.

"I would like to know how many relatives Blackwell has in Cuba or how many years of her life she spent as a citizen of the Republic of Cuba," Venero scoffed.

In her own defense, Blackwell tells *Central Voice* "I support inclusion of Zinn's book." Radio host Giordano "always looks to incite controversy". She thinks that "we should challenge students with different points of view, challenge them to think."

Blackwell is not alone in her admiration of Cuba. Musician Jay Z recently got his rapper in the ringer and was accused of holding a double standard.

Last May Jay Z and wife Beyoncé spent their fifth wedding anniversary in Cuba. While there, they extolled the Communist island while saying nothing about a local rapper, Angel Yunier Remon, better known as "El Critico del Arte," who was jailed for doing exactly what Jay Z does in his music. At press time, reports indicated El Critico was near death in a hospital after a 19 day hunger strike.

As reported by the *New York Post* El Critico "asked that it be known that he's committed to 'freedom or death,' which is his take on the Cuban regime's official mantra — 'socialism, homeland or death,'" said Mauricio Claver-Crone, executive director of the Washington-based Cuba Democracy Advocates.

The *Post* asked Jay Z to do El Critico a solid by asking Raul Castro to free a man who's dying in a Cuban prison for doing what Jay Z does every day.

Co-chairs Boylan and Warren

GLAAD Appoints 1st Transgender Co-chair

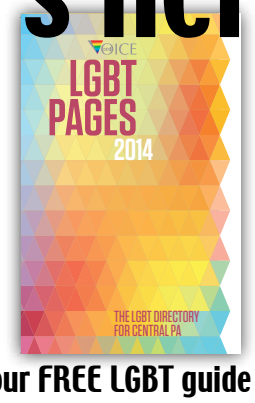
Trans activist Jennifer Finley Boylan and entertainment lawyer Steve Warren were appointed as co-chairs of GLAAD's National Board of Directors. Founded in 1985, GLAAD is the nation's lesbian gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) media advocacy organization.

Boylan is the organization's first transgender to co-chair the board. Her autobiography, She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders, was the first by a transgender American to become a best seller. Boylan is professor of English at Colby College and a mother of two.

Steve Warren, an entertainment lawyer was recently honored with the Stephen F. Kolzak Award at the 2013 GLAAD Media Awards. Warren, a graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School, has been a practicing entertainment lawyer for twenty-seven years. He served as the first out gay man on the Board of Trustees for his daughter's school, the Center for Early Education, and currently serves as the first out gay man on the Board of Trustees at the Archer School for Girls.

"The transgender community continues to face alarming rates of violence and inequality while transgender people and issues remain relatively invisible in our national dialogue," Dave Montez, GLAAD's acting president, said in a statement. "Jenny's proven leadership will be instrumental as GLAAD continues to grow mainstream media attention and public understanding around transgender issues."

It's here!



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Central Voice Columnists Comment on *The Book of Matt* Controversy

A new book *The Book of Matt: Hidden Truths about the Murder of Matthew Shephard* by journalist Stephen Jimenez, himself gay, is causing a real stir. He calls into the question the idea that Shepard's murder was a hate crime.

As one bookseller notes: What role did crystal meth and other previously underreported factors play in the brutal murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard? *The Book of Matt* is a page-turning cautionary tale that humanizes and de-mythologizes Matthew while following the evidence where it leads, without regard to the politics that have long attended this American tragedy.

Central Voice Columnists weigh in on the controversy.

We asked:

1. Even if Jimenez's claims are true or mostly true, does that change the need for a Federal Hate Crimes Law?

2. Does the passage of time and the uncovering of new information about Shepard change the need for ongoing education around lgbt hate crimes?

Leo Dunne, *Attorney*

Even if Jimenez's claims are true, it does not change the need for a federal hate crimes law. A federal law would make it clear that it is not acceptable to bully, torment, or assault others due to sexual orientation or perceived orientation as well as the other enumerated factors. Such a law also strengthens the fight against school bullying and will help to make children's lives a bit merrier.

Jiminez's, or other research, does not diminish the need for hate crimes education. Whether the crime is based on gender, sexual orientation, or domestic violence, we need to constantly educate so that our society improves.

Trum Simmons, *All in the Academy*

This new book asks us to rethink Matthew Shepherd's death, and that is good thing.

This terrible crime immediately moved into the realm of myth and iconography, and that always causes problems. Remember the first subsequently discredited reports saying Shepherd was stretched out on that fence as though crucified?

Regardless of the gay hate crime aspect of the case, the expanded information about the role of drugs in the murder is helpful in getting us closer to the truth of what happened on October 6, 1998 in Laramie, Wyoming.

In reading reactions to the book, most positive and some eager to discredit Jiminez,

I was reminded of the history surrounding the famous 2003 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Lawrence V. Texas that struck down the Texas sodomy law. In that complicated story we learned that the two men used in the case were neither lovers nor a couple, but activist lawyers were able to use the police bust of the house they were in to overturn a hateful law. That intervention into the lives of John Lawrence and Tyron Garner occurred in Houston Texas on September 17, 1998-- it was a tough fall for our country.

We can always use more education on LGBT hate crimes. Whoever first said journalism is the first rough draft of history has it correct - most historical events are way more complex than they seem at the time.

Louie Marven, *executive director LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania*

Jimenez's claims, to whatever degree they are true, do not change the need for a Federal Hate Crimes Law. Sexual orientation is the third most common reason for a hate crime behind race and religion. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs reported in 2012 that severe acts of violence were especially perpetrated on transgender people, LGBTQ people of color, and gay men.

I think that regardless of Jimenez's claims, we need to remember that hate crimes are so designated because they are not only a crime against an individual person, but they communicate to an entire community that people who are part of that community cannot feel safe for simply holding an identity. The narrative of Shepard's murder, even despite any new information that could come out about it, underscored in a public way what LGBT people already knew to be true: that living an out and open life is a risk that could be punished by physical violence. We can simultaneously be open to hearing new information while holding to the truth that we need to work with our allies to create safer and more affirming communities, where no person experiences violence for openly being themselves.

Rev. Lori Rivera, *Pastor Metropolitan Church of the Spirit, Harrisburg*

Whether the claims are true or mostly true there is still a need for Federal Hate Crimes Law. As with many changes in our world it takes a face to get people to react. When Rock Hudson came out as gay and with AIDS it changed the way people look at AIDS and how they supported AIDS endeavors. With Matthew Shepard's murder a country, well most of it, woke up to realize that people were hurting other people because of who or what they were. This needed to stop and strong action, Hate Crime Laws, need to be enacted.

We need to continue to be advocates and educators of the need for the passage of hate crime laws for the lgbt community and other groups that suffer from hate crimes because of who or what they are. Too often when I first came out 20+ years ago, I heard people say, "I thought I hated gay people until I met one." Until people have a face that goes along with a problem, until people can identify through education that a problem exists and something needs to be done, nothing will be done. We, the leaders of the LGBT community, need to keep the faces and needs of the community in front of people – all people.

> The single best thing about coming out of the closet is that nobody can insult you by telling you what you've just told them.
>
> **- Rachel Maddow**

What PA Loses without Marriage Equality

A national, scientific survey on same-sex marriage indicates that 76% of same-sex couples feel it is important to work with LGBT-friendly businesses when planning their wedding.

So much for that statistic in Pennsylvania where same-sex marriages are not allowed. Although currently being legally challenged from every direction, the state still defines marriage as between one man and one woman.

The survey, by Community Marketing & Insights (CMI), an LGBT consumer research company, has released the results of their "Same-Sex Couples: Weddings and Engagements" survey. The partnered with The Gay Wedding Institute.

The survey of 916 couples was gathered from across the country, with 57% already married, 19% in domestic partnership, 18% engaged and 5% in a civil union.

The recent US Supreme Court decision striking down part of the Defense of Marriage Act and access to marriage rights in 14 states have led to an ever-increasing number of couples planning weddings.

"This timely survey gives the wedding industry and the public some fascinating insights into how engagement and marriage are viewed by same-sex couples," said CMI's David Paisley.

Major findings include:

* The economic impact for states offering civil unions or domestic partnerships is considerably less than those offering marriage. 76% of couples receiving a civil union or domestic partnership did not have a traditional wedding with ceremony and reception. This research calculated the economic impact of same-sex couples getting legally married is three times greater than those receiving a civil union or domestic partnership, because married couples are far more likely to have a reception with guests or their receptions have a greater number of guests.

* Comparing those already married vs. those just now engaged, the trend is for newly engaged couples to spend more on their ceremonies and have a larger number of guests at their ceremony than those couples already married.

* Consistently across all questions considered in this study, female same-sex couples spend more on their weddings than male same-sex couples. For those already married, female same-sex couples spent 15% more than the men.

* In every category tested, female same-sex couples were more likely to participate in "wedding ceremony traditions" than the men. For example 66% of women purchase engagement rings vs. 19% of men. Also female same-sex couples are far more likely follow wedding traditions such as rehearsal dinners or first dances at the reception.

* Only about half of same-sex couples fully embraced the words "husband" and "wife." More same-sex couples prefer the terms "spouse" and "partner."

* 76% of same-sex couples feel it is important to work with LGBT-friendly businesses when planning their wedding.

* 22% of same-sex couples used a religious leader as their officiant and only 12% of same-sex marriages were held in religious spaces.

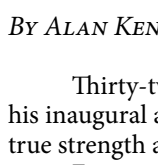
* Male couples tended to get married after being together for more than five years, while female couples more likely to get married after being together five years or less.

* 36% of same-sex couples who are married have children

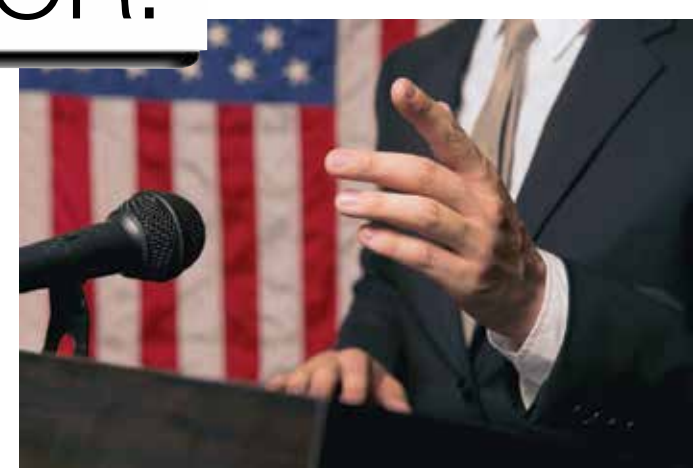
* 67% of newly engaged same-sex couples have emotional support around their marriage from their parents compared to only 47% of those already married.

community voice

IF I WERE MAYOR:



Imagining the Inaugural Address



By Alan Kennedy-Shaffer

Thirty-two years ago, a new mayor, Stephen Reed, said in his inaugural address that "the vitality of our own citizenry [is] the true strength and base from which our resurgence shall take place."

Four years ago, another new mayor, Linda Thompson, vowed in her inaugural address to help Harrisburg provide "essential city services, even as the dark clouds of financial distress appear on the horizon."

Now, as the dark clouds of financial distress finally begin to recede, newly-elected Mayor Eric Papenfuse must renew the call for Harrisburg's citizenry to ensure the city's resurgence. In his inaugural address, Mayor Papenfuse should provide direction. If I were mayor, this is how I would begin:

Four years ago, another new mayor stood before you and spoke about the need to persevere "even as the dark clouds of financial distress appear on the horizon."

Today, as the dark clouds of financial distress finally begin to recede, we must remember our common purpose and reach out to everyone who can help make our streets safer, our children smarter, our businesses stronger, and our city more beautiful. A new era is dawning in a city in which citizens from 2nd Street to 22nd Street, from Woodbine to Walnut, and from Hall Manor to City Hall are stepping up to help lead. Together, let us imagine a city where we are proud to live, learn, work, and play.

Imagine a Harrisburg without debt.

Imagine streets filled with volunteers who care about safety and neighborhood teams preventing blight by volunteering to clean our streets.

Imagine police, fire, and codes enforcement officers working together to make Harrisburg safer.

Imagine schools where children and parents want to learn, and teachers have enough resources.

Imagine murals marking our bridges, bicycle lanes, clean energy buses, and city-wide wi-fi.

Imagine leaders who treat you not as pests but as partners, and are always open to new ideas. That is a Harrisburg where I want to be mayor. If we come together, Harrisburg can be that city.

My transition teams and I have developed solutions that will point us in the right direction. With the Harrisburg Strong plan as an imperfect, yet necessary, starting point, here are my basic plans:

• SAFE streets – Coordinate police, fire, and codes through a "public safety" department. This step will encourage resource sharing and a targeted approach to crime, fires, and blighted buildings. By coordinating (i.e. crime camera program), we can keep costs down while increasing safety.

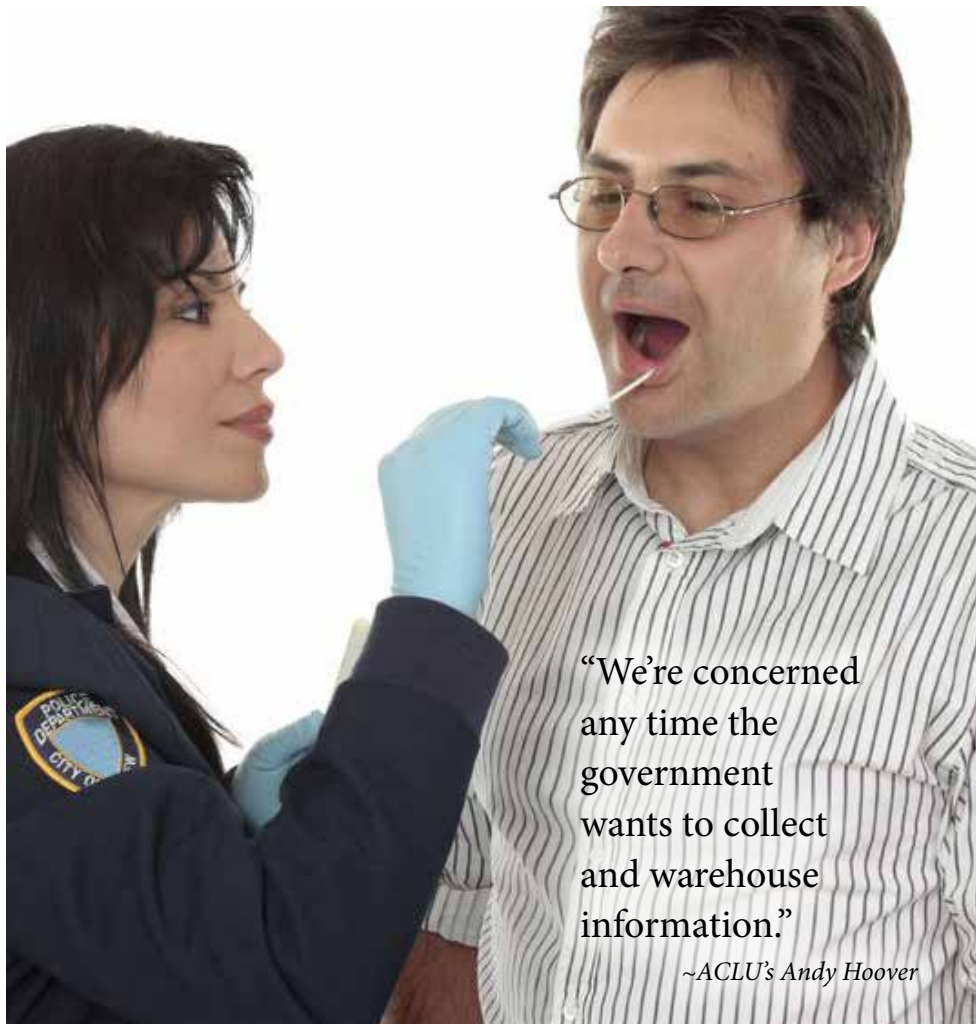
• SMART students – Discuss regional solutions that will give all students access to high quality schools, engage our parents, and support our teachers, while ensuring accountability on all sides. Although not the mayor's responsibility, the mayor can help engage the community on this issue.

• STRONG economy – Build on the Harrisburg Strong plan to encourage businesses to develop, hire, and expand from the city out. This is essential to reviving Harrisburg as a regional anchor. Of course, as we pursue sustainable jobs, the receiver should help us to secure regional buy-in.

• CLEAN neighborhoods – Work with City Council to prioritize trash pick-up. Equip cleanup teams. Support community partners who will take the lead on parks and recreation. With city services cut to the core, the city must look to volunteers and nonprofits as leadership partners.

Because Harrisburg was built by ordinary citizens who dare to imagine a thriving river city, the mayor's office will always be open to you. No one person can solve all of Harrisburg's problems, but each of us can do something to help. Whether you are from Midtown or Allison Hill, whether you are a public servant or work hard for a business invested in the city, whether you call yourself a scholar or an entrepreneur, you hold the keys to Harrisburg's future.

While we continue to pursue justice for past wrongs, let us focus on imagining our city right. Looking beyond bankruptcy to prosperity and progress, our great city will rise again. Let's go to work.



DNA Now, Proof of Guilt Later?

By Frank Pizzoli

In a move that wouldn't suprise George Orwell, Pennsylvania's House Judiciary Committee held hearings late last year on Senate Bill 150 that would require DNA testing on suspects charged with certain crimes *after* their arrest but *before* they are convicted.

That's a change in current law.

State Sen. Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi is the bill's prime sponsor. The measure gained strong State senate approval last June.

Allowed in 27 other states, if passed, the proposal would supersede current state law requiring individuals convicted of certain serious crimes to submit to DNA sampling.

In a previous decision, the US Supreme Court decided to allow DNA testing of suspects after their arrest but before conviction. The high court reasoned the step allowed for better identification of suspects.

"We're concerned any time the government wants to collect and warehouse information," ACLU of Pennsylvania's Andy Hoover tells *Central Voice.* ACLU opposes the measure saying it turns the concept of "innocent until proven guilty" on its head.

Pileggi's stated goal is to use what he refers to as the "new science" of DNA.

Hoover argues back that police investigative techniques already use improvements in the science of DNA examination

"This is more like a 'new use' of new science," he says. The bill moves testing back to when someone is *arrested* not after they are *convicted* as current law requires, Hoover explains.

The new measure would also allow police to investigate a suspect's relatives if a DNA sample collected from a crime scene only partially matches a potential suspect's DNA.

The reasoning on expanding the test to include relatives is referred to as an "improved investigative tool". That means a partial or inconclusive DNA test on one suspect may prompt investigators, for example, to collect a DNA sample from a suspect's brother, thereby adding to their suspect pool.

To be clear, the proposed bill requires that a person must first be arrested before a DNA test, or a test on a family member, could be completed. Current law calls for the test only on individuals convicted of felonies and certain misdemeanor crimes.

"We already have identification techniques space – space fingerprints, photographs, articles of evidence, and witness reports," Hoover says.

Would such a law increase convictions?

In Maryland where a similar law exists, data from 2009 to 2011 on 33,000 samples collected indicate only 13 new convictions occurred. "That's not much of a success rate," Hoover argues.

The Pennsylvania State Police expressed concerns during the hearing.

Hearing transcripts indicate state police are concerned about the cost of doing so many more DNA tests.

As a compromise state police recommend expanding the list of misdemeanor crimes for which DNA samples are collected after a suspect is convicted. Research indicates that convicted felons have often committed lesser, misdemeanor crimes before being arrested on felony charges. Sometimes individuals convicted of felonies, and who also previously committed misdemeanor crimes, were never caught for those earlier misdemeanors. Having this higher level of DNA surveillance data collected would allow for better individual suspect profiling of already convicted felons or in profiling suspects for serious crime.

"We like the public to know that the ACLU firmly acknowledges that convicted felons sacrifice certain freedoms as a result of their criminal activity. Our concern with Senate Bill 150 is that expanded DNA testing will be used for investigating purposes rather than post-conviction. We're innocent until proven guilty and that's when the current law kicks in," Hoover concludes.

Chamber on the move

By Bill Krenz

Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Networking Works

Networking conversations produce results.

A case in point is when chamber member Barbara Sunderlin, partner of SunWorks, etc and David Leas attended the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (CPGLCC) annual dinner last March. There they met keynote speaker, Justin Nelson, president and co-founder, National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC).

Sunderlin and Leas, became LGBTBE (LGBT Business Enterprise) certified in 2012 and were recognized at the local chamber's annual dinner that evening.

Over breakfast the following morning, Nelson inquired if there might be an opportunity to incorporate a SunWorks,etc piece into the national chamber's new Innovation Center in Washington, DC. Ultimately SunWorks, etc was given the job to create and install a free standing custom countertop and base in the center which was opened last summer.

Past Events

Chamber members attended FAB Nov. 9, where our past president and current treasurer Russ Boggs was honored as a 2013 FAB Honoree.

Chamber members started holiday shopping early at the November Mixer hosted by Goldcrafters Corner.

Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus and the Womyn's Chorus hosted the holiday networking event Dec. 12 at Harrisburg Theatre's Jay & Nancy Krevsky Production Center.

Future Events

The January mixer is Thurs., Jan. 16, 6-8 p.m. at the newly opened Lux Bar and Lounge, York. Meet Stephen Perko and his staff.

The February mixer is Feb. 20, 6-8 p.m. at Harrisburg's St@rt-up.

Save Sat.,March 8 on your calendars, the date for the Chamber's Annual Meeting and Dinner at Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey. Sponsorships are available. Keynote speaker is Chris Crespo, Inclusiveness Director, Americas People Team, Ernst & Young and NGLCC Board of Directors recent past Chair.

Info: www.cpglcc.org

Lancaster events

Jan. 17 - *Passport to River Towns*

On sale now through the end of the promotion, Passport to River Towns offers special benefits to "travelers" as they visit the participating businesses. Get stamps from 12 "destinations" and then turn in your "passport" for a chance at a grand-prize drawing. The program runs weekends beginning Jan. 17 and ends Feb. 16. For more information or to purchase a "Passport", visit the SVCC at 445 Linden St., Columbia or call 717-684-5249.
Locations: Columbia, Marietta, Wrightsville

Feb. 16 - *Jack Frost Jubilee Open Fun Horse Show Series*

Open Fun Horse Show Series, admission free to spectators. Dressage, Jumping, English, Western, Speed classes, etc. Every show will have a raffle to benefit the Mount Hope Horse Rescue. Most classes held indoors, seating available indoors.
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Contact: (717) 354-5585
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Ally in the Academy

By Trum Simmons

Learning from History

Winter is a good time to turn inward, to take stock of oneself. Certainly it is a season loved by many for winter sports and sitting by the fire with a loved one, but there are so many benefits to sitting down with yourself and reflecting on just what your life is about.

A year ago I wrote about my new granddaughter, Anya, and what her arrival in the world has meant for me. Now she is 14 months old and I have continued reason to be optimistic every time I am with her. The world in the beginning of 2014 remains a troubled and dangerous place, but spending time in Anya's world brings me such joy and thankfulness.

The year 2013 ended on a mostly positive note for LGBTQ communities. Increasing numbers of states approved same-sex marriage, and ENDA was coming closer to being passed. It seemed everyone I spoke with was noting the rapid pace of change.

And anyone who attended FAB in November enjoyed an evening filled with love. More than 300 people enjoyed good company, good food and drink, and a program celebrating the fine work of our LGBTQ leaders.

I was particularly struck by the younger people present who talked about what they were learning about what it means to be a pioneer in advocating for and living out equal rights. Several commented on their appreciation for those who spoke up and stood up when it was not easy to do so. And to think that there were same-sex couples at FAB who have been together for 30 years or more--what great role models for younger people!

Barry Loveland was honored for both his role in helping found Common Roads 20 years ago and for the current LGBT History Project he is heading up for the Central PA LGBT center. To say we need to know history can sound obvious or clichéd, but given the daily reminders of the negative effects of people who don't know it, I want to keep promoting the thought.

History is not a simple set of facts, and you don't really know history by looking at news headlines or reading sidebars that highlight important events. Indeed, the more you research history, the more complicated it gets.

During our February celebration of Black History Month we have an opportunity to learn more about the ambiguities and complexities of trying to understand the past. I was reminded of this when HBO's drama Boardwalk Empire brought a follower of Marcus Garvey into the plotline, which made want to know more about this controversial African American leader.

Thanks to my historian brother-in-law I came upon the excellent book Black Leaders of the Twentieth Century, a compilation of academic essays edited by John Hope Franklin and August Meier, and I learned that Garvey was a great deal more than an advocate of the so-called back-to-Africa movement. In fact, it is an over-simplification to say he was all about sending blacks to Africa.

In his essay on Garvey, Lawrence Levine notes that Garvey made many statements about the need for blacks to "come home," but he also said, "we are not preaching any doctrine to ask all the Negroes of Harlem and of the United States to leave for Africa. The majority of us may remain here."

What's most important about Garvey is that he was attempting to build black solidarity through the various programs he proposed, and this alone made him a lightning rod for all sorts of criticism and his pursuit by a young J. Edgar Hoover, who had no use for Garvey's UNIA (United Negro Improvement Association) and wanted Garvey deported.

Garvey didn't think much of the NAACP and once observed that the acronym stood for "The National Association for the Advancement of Certain People," i.e., not all African-Americans. He fought with W.E.B. DuBois, and the two men exchanged nasty comments about one another. Their infighting illustrates exactly what such divisiveness can do to solidarity.

Elsewhere in this issue of Central Voice is a piece about a new book on the murder of Matthew Shepherd, in which the author suggests that we may have got a lot wrong in the standard interpretation of this terrible crime. I don't need to rehash that here, but it is another example of the need for us to be patient in trying to get at the truth of LGBT history, just like every other aspect of history.

I recently came across Rebecca Stefoff's A Young People's History of the United States, a 2009 adaptation of Howard Zinn's famous--and infamous--book. I've long quoted from Zinn's book in my college classes, and I'm excited to see that his view of history may be reaching even more people, and earlier in their educations. (See Follow Up: Cuba Comments Irk Local Man based on Philadelphia School District's use of Zinn's A People's History of the United States.)

Zinn and others like him ask us to get beyond the headlines and see life from the standpoint of those who experience oppression: the disadvantaged, the poor, society's minorities. There's no such thing as too many points of view represented when it comes to figuring out where we came from and where we might be going. Yes, it's complicated.

Hear Me Out:
Lady Gaga, Arcade Fire

By Chris Azzopardi

Lady Gaga, ARTPOP

So much for that high-concept, post-modern ingenuity that _ARTPOP_ promised even before Lady Gaga hawked it as the album of not the year, not the decade, but of the millennium. This isn't that album. Not even close. Not when it comes to the innovativeness it touted, anyway. If this is art, so is "Poker Face." And so is dressing up in a frock made of dead cow. This is Gaga to the extreme; everything is done with more cartoonish flamboyancy, and – if it's even possible at this point – exaggerated to the fullest. But while _Born This Way_ was at least, despite its exhausting preachiness, an evolution that demonstrated sophisticated vanguard where self-importance at least felt musically validated, this takes three steps back. Neither as clever nor avant-garde as it thinks it is, _ARTPOP_ is a straightforward, '80s-fashioned electro-pop piece that, with a satirical edge, riffs on fame, drugs and other vapidness – the very themes of queen Gaga before she led her misunderstood Monsters down the road to empowerment. With B-52s camp, "Donatella" and "Fashion!" fit the homo bill, and they're both amusing ... if you too were amused by the unintentional awesomeness of _Showgirls_. Part horror show, part whore show, ARTPOP is gaudy (see "Swine," where this meat obsession of hers translates into metaphor), but it's hard to turn away from something that tries so hard to be tacky and messy and just so ... weird. Even an R. Kelly cameo, on "Do What U Want," seems out there – and then it all comes together pretty perfectly. But it's "Dope," a rollicking power ballad that endears, and the smashing Springsteenian "Gypsy" that our Mother Monster should keep in mind next time she tries to hustle pop music as high art.

Grade: B-

Arcade Fire, Reflektor

Not long into Arcade Fire's 80-minute epic of rhythmic mythology – where themes of rebirth thrive amidst the usual sociopolitical go-tos – is an empowering statement of visibility that can't help but be heard as a queer affirmation. With frontman Win Butler championing the oppressed, the song is called "We Exist," but it's not the only one that's outcast-minded: David Bowie vibes pipe through the garage-rockery of outsider anthem "Normal Person," a challenge to societal conformity. But the Montreal troupe doesn't just tackle the bigger picture; they look inward and tear down their own conventions – their own "normal." _Reflektor_ breaks the band's rules, abandoning the Neil Young-inspired '70s sounds of The Suburbs, their Grammy-winning LP and last release, for an adventuresome, dance-inspired work that radically shifts from quintessential Arcade Fire. With former LCD Soundsystem frontman James Murphy on board as producer, Reflektor breaks into the dance-punk that is Murphy's forte, winding up somewhere in the realm of the band's older "Sprawl II (Mountains Beyond Mountains)," an electro triumph. Here, a frantic parade of noise simmers into a charged punk anthem on the defiant "Joan of Arc," disco-era strings line the slow-burn of "Porno," and "Afterlife" – with Butler and wife Régine Chassagne's poignant exchanges, also heard on the transcendent standout "It's Never Over (Hey Orpheus)" – is a euphoric jaunt of survival on the album's back, and better, half.

Grade: B+

Also Out:

Mason Jennings, Always Been

There's always been a refreshing lack of sentimentality to Mason Jennings' sweetness. On the Minneapolis folkie's 10th album, he again avoids Hallmark triteness despite delivering songs that are among some of his most sensitive – and also, his best. "Patti and Robert" is a powerful portrait of love inspired by the punk poet's relationship to Robert Mapplethorpe, and "Dreaming" evokes the simple-but-tenderhearted classics of the '60s. Less melancholic than his usual sad-man sounds, this is Jennings' most consistently melodic release. He should be happy more often.

Avril Lavigne, Avril Lavigne

Avril Lavigne can't quite figure out if she's ready to grow up. After a modest expression of adult-ish emotions on 2011's _Goodbye Lullaby_, it's back to being the badass. Before the album's chanty single, "Here's to Never Growing Up," the feisty Canadian pop-rocker, at nearly 30, is all teen-rebel boasts on "Rock N Roll." Both songs don't do anything to advance Avril's artistic image, but they're nowhere as excruciating as the big, ugly ballad featuring Nickelback frontman/husband Chad Kroeger, "Let Me Go" ... or just about anything else during the rest of this identity crisis.

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FIVE COOL NEIGHBORHOODS DENVER

OUT OF TOWN
by Andrew Collins

Situated a mile above sea level in the shadows of the dramatic Rocky Mountain range, Denver is home to plenty of locals whose personalities neatly match the city's setting: think of people who are open, sunny, outdoorsy, and - thanks to last year's vote to legalize small amounts of marijuana for personal consumption - high. As of January 2014, both local and out-of-state residents will be able to legally purchase pot in Colorado. Whether Denver really becomes "New Amsterdam," as some have predicted, is unclear, but this development does reflect the generally progressive nature of this city that's long been a favorite LGBT destination.

With a vibrant arts and cultural scene, a vast supply of cool and hip lounges and restaurants specializing in craft beverages (from beer to spirits) and seasonal cuisine, and gay hangouts spread pretty evenly around a number of parts of town, Denver is a great city for neighborhood touring. You can even make your way around on bike - just rent a two-wheeler from one of the many Denver B-Cycle bike-sharing stations around the city. With this in mind, here are five of the best parts of town for exploring, eating, drinking, and shopping.

South Broadway

A part of town that's long been a bastion of gay nightlife but has steadily developed cachet as a hotspot of hipster cafés and quirky clothiers, design boutiques, and arty mixed bars is South Broadway (aka the Baker District), especially the blocks from about 3rd Avenue south to Alameda. Along here you can stop inside Beatrice & Woodsley (beatriceandwoodsley.com), an urbane spot for creative regional cooking, while Happy Coffee (happycoffeeco.com) is a cool little java joint serving espresso that's every bit as "freakishly amazing" as this establishment claims. Catch a film at the gloriously restored Mayan Theatre, an ornate movie palace that was built in 1930 and screens indie and foreign flicks, or head to the Punch Bowl Social (punchbowlsocial.com), a quirky bar, bowling alley, craft beer hall, and restaurant with all sorts of amusing diversions, including ping-pong and shuffleboard.

Other neighborhood fixtures include Sweet Action Ice Cream (sweetactionicecream.com), which serves handmade desserts in fun flavors (biscuits-and-jam, blackberry whiskey), and the Hornet (hornetrestaurant.com), a venerable diner–cum–pool hall–lounge, great for everything from a full meal to cocktails. As for gay nightlife along this quirky corridor, you'll find a somewhat cruise-y, all-ages bunch at the Compound (compounddenver.com), the city's longest-running GLBT dance club, and Boyztown (boyztowndenver.com), a fun place to watch go-go dancers strut their stuff.

South Broadway is just a couple of miles south of downtown hotels, and there's also a convenient chain property, TownePlace Suites Denver (marriott.com) that's geared to extended stays and is within walking distance of the neighborhood.

Golden Triangle Museum District

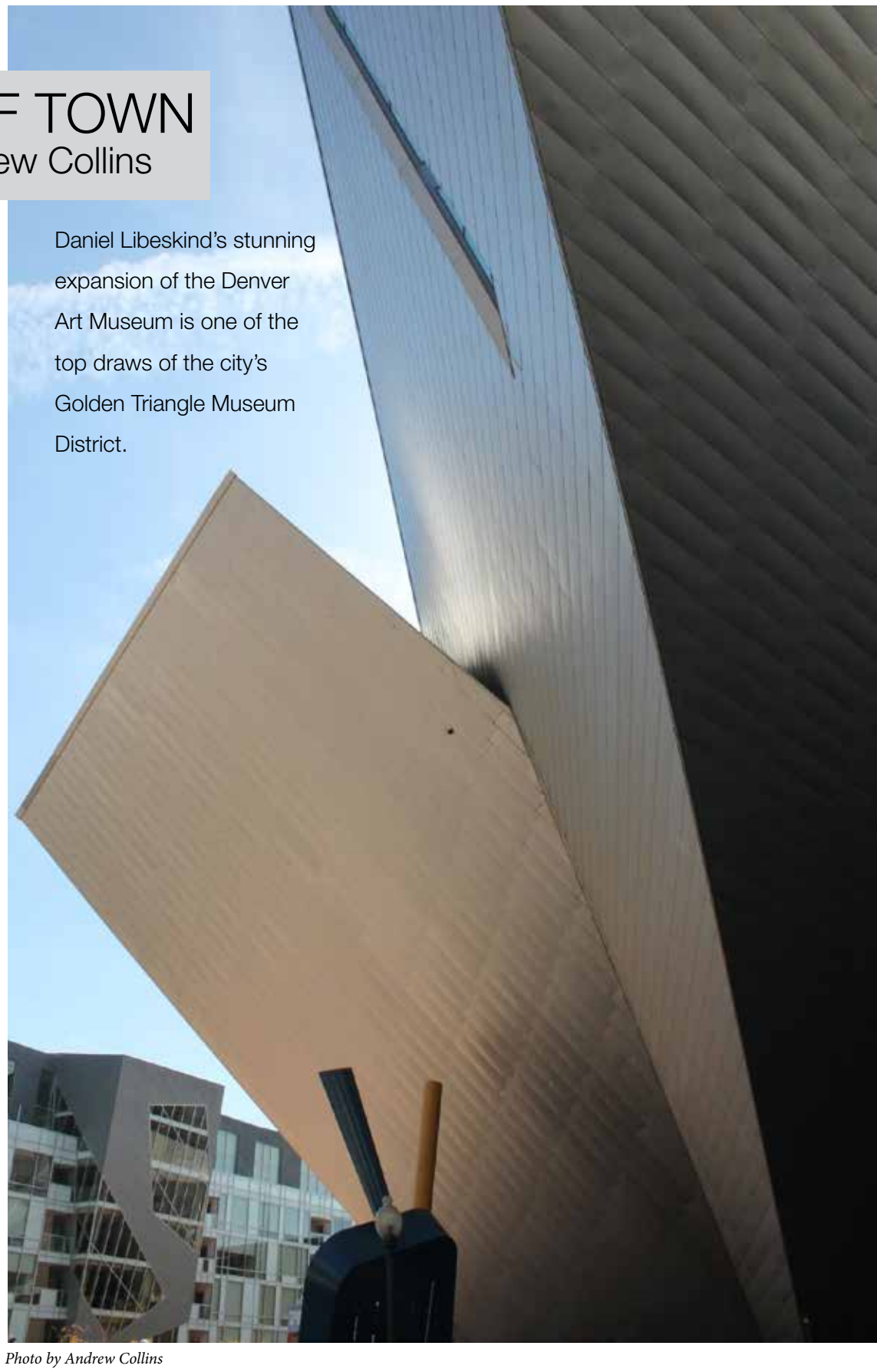
Just south of downtown and its gleaming skyscrapers, this tract of first-rate museums can easily keep fans of art and history busy for a day or two. The spectacular Denver Art Museum, in a memorable building with a striking expansion designed by Daniel Libeskind, contains a terrific and diverse permanent collection and also stages excellent temporary shows. Next door, the unusual Clyfford Still Museum houses nearly the entire body of work of the acclaimed abstract expressionist painter for which it's named, and across the street you can tour the Byers-Evans House Museum, which was built in 1883 and now contains rotating history exhibits. Other cultural draws nearby include the Molly Brown House and the relatively new and very impressive History Colorado Center.

The district also has a few fun bars and restaurants, including the laid-back gay neighborhood bar Broadway's (broadwaysdenver.com), which has fun drag shows; and La Rumba (larumbadenver.com), an attractive, mixed gay/straight Latin club known for great salsa and meringue (Friday's Lipgloss party is a particularly wild romp). Rooster and Moon Coffee Pub (roosterandmoon.com) is an inviting nearby spot to fill up on espresso drinks and light lunch and dinner fare. Just a five-minute drive southwest, check out the galleries along Santa Fe Avenue, a stretch of colorful old buildings that now supports a vibrant gallery scene as well as the Museo de la Americas - there's also a fun little gay bar, the Barker Lounge.

The gay-owned and quite elegant Capitol Hill Mansion (capitolhillmansion.com), with its eight elegantly furnished suites and rooms, is one of the best accommodations in the Golden Triangle - it's just around the corner from the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art, a somewhat underrated treasure packed with pop art, Arts and Crafts furnishings, and works by late Colorado artist Vance Kirkland and many others.

Larimer Square

One of the most intriguing sections of downtown, especially for culinary exploring, is artsy Larimer Square, a restored Victorian block that is now lined with trendy boutiques and cafes, including two of the city's restau-



Daniel Libeskind's stunning expansion of the Denver Art Museum is one of the top draws of the city's Golden Triangle Museum District.

Photo by Andrew Collins

rant gems, Rioja (riojadenver.com) and Bistro Vendome (bistrovendome.com), which are helmed by talented James Beard Award–winning chef Jennifer Jasinski. For a post-clubbing nosh or late breakfast, drop by Tom's Urban 24 (tomsurban24.com), a mod diner that's open all the time, or stop inside longtime favorite Market at Larimer Square (themarketatlarimer.com), a wonderful little bakery, coffeehouse, and deli. Other dining highlights on nearby blocks include Cholon (cholon.com), a stylish and contemporary Pan-Asian restaurant; and Euclid Hall Bar and Kitchen (euclidhall.com), which is part of same group as Rioja and Bistro Vendome and is known for its interesting beer list and fun take on late-night comfort food (pad Thai pig ears, chicken-and-waffles with maple gastrique).

The neighborhood offers close access to the state-of-the-art Denver Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA), the second-largest such space in the nation (trailing only New York City's Lincoln Center), with its several superb performance venues hosting everything from nationally touring musicals to first-rate opera.

You'll find several noteworthy hotels in this part of town. Opened in 2010, the stunning Four Seasons Denver (fourseasons.com/Denver) rises 45 stories above the neighborhood and contains 239 swank yet unfussy rooms with huge windows (the mountain-view rooms are especially nice), deep soaking tubs in the bathrooms, and pleasing stone and wood accents. Book a treatment in the superb spa, and dine at EDGE (edgerestaurantdenver.com), a stunning steakhouse renowned for regional game specialties like Colorado lamb chops with cucumber-mint raita and elk tenderloin topped with pan-seared foie gras.

With its stylish look as well as a convenient location across from the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, The Curtis (thecurtis.com) looks like just another high-rise from the exterior. But inside you'll discover a whimsical, retro-fabulous hotel with each floor themed differently - rooms on the eighth level have a sci-fi look, while those on the 12th are done with a get-your-groove-on dance-floor theme. Across the street, if you're seeking more room to spread out, consider the surprisingly sleek and luxurious Denver Embassy Suites Downtown (embassysuites3.hilton.com), the city's only LEED-certified hotel, whose ample rooms have microwaves and minifridges; there's a very nice indoor saline pool and 24-hour fitness center, and cooked-to-order breakfast and an evening reception with snacks and beverages are included.

LoHi

Take a trip north of downtown, beyond LoDo (aka Lower Downtown), to reach LoHi (Lower Highlands), and beyond that Highlands itself, neighborhoods that have become increasingly fashionable as places to eat out and bar-hop. Top spots in LoHi for dining and drinking include Jezebel's Southern Bistro (jezebelslohi.com), which earns kudos for its delicious brunch and breakfast fare - it morphs into a more see-and-be-seen bar and dinner scene later in the day. Fans of whiskey should order one of the artisan bourbon flights. Distinctive for its outdoor seating beneath a giant milk jug, Little Man Ice Cream (littlemanicecream.com) is a fine spot for artisan sweets, while around the corner, one of the hottest dining spots in LoHi, Linger (lingerdenver.com), occupies a former mortuary (the owners describe it now as an "eatuary"). You won't feel too creeped out when you see the stylish interior, enjoy the great views of the neighborhood, and feast on such creative international dishes as lemongrass shrimp with crispy rice noodles, and carrot-and-lentil falafel with cashews and Turkish chile.

LoHi isn't far from downtown accommodations, but there's also a cluster of mid-range chain properties right on the edge of the neighborhood, within walking distance of the bars and restaurants nearest the pedestrian bridge into LoDo. Standouts include the Residence Inn Denver Downtown (marriott.com), which has spacious suites well-suited to longer stays, and the clean and reasonably priced Hampton Inn & Suites Denver–Speer Boulevard (hamptoninn3.hilton.com).

RiNo

Northeast of LoDo, the once downtrodden warehouse district now known as the River North Arts District (RINO, rivernorthart.com) continues to take off, as both retrofitted vintage buildings and brand-new constructions lure artists, designers, furniture makers, and other creative spirits. Visitors will find much of the action - from studio galleries to stylish lounges and eateries - along the main drags of Walnut and Larimer streets, from about Broadway to Downing Street. The neighborhood is home to two of the most popular gay nightspot in the city, the long-running dance club Tracks Denver (tracksdenver.com) and the leather- and fetish-driven Denver Eagle (theeaglebar.com).

Among venues popular with a mixed crowd, the pleasingly named Infinite Monkey Theorem (theinfinitemonkeytheorem.com) is the city's first urban winery - it's open for tours, tastings, and all sorts of events. Across the street, the Populist (thepopulistdenver.com) is making waves for its stellar eclectic modern cooking (try the huitlacoche agnolotti or mussels with bone marrow). And nearby Black Shirt Brewing (blackshirtbrewingco.com) is producing some of the best beer in town, while Fuel Café (fuelcafedenver.com) is a great stop for creative diner-inspired fare, from fried-chicken with cheddar-scallion biscuits at breakfast to pork cheeks with mole sauce at dinner.

Although there are no hotels in RiNo, the historic and charming Oxford Hotel (theoxfordhotel.com) is just a few blocks south of where the neighborhood begins, in the heart of LoDo (and also quite close to Larimer Square). Built in 1891, this luxurious and beautiful restored hotel is renowned for its individually appointed rooms (all with such modern perks as Bose Wave/iPod docks and free Wi-Fi), gorgeous art deco Cruise Room bar, and full-service spa and salon.

Andrew Collins produces the site GayTravel.About.com and contributes to many other travel magazines and websites.

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Haring's 1987 Philadelphia row house mural on Ellsworth Street in Point Breeze. -Photo by Ray Roda

Keith Haring Legacy Strong As Ever

Mural Restored, Book Published

By Central Voice

Keith Haring's legacy as an artist is as strong as ever.

A Philadelphia row house mural of Haring's has been restored.

Haring's fav NYC 80s club, Area, recently got a second life through a book release on the club's role in NYC's art world. Area was the haunt of stars like Haring, Andy Warhol, Grace Jones, Bianca Jagger and Sting.

The club got a second life on the Lower East Side recently thanks to the co-owner Eric Goode and his sister Jennifer Goode. They celebrated the release of their book "Area: 1983-1987" at the Hole Gallery with an exhibition featuring work from the club by Haring, David Hockney, Julian Schnabel among others.

Open from 1983–1987, a Haring favorite, Area blended art and nightlife, changing exhibits every six weeks with themes like "Gnarly," "Night," 'Sex," and "Suburbia." The space was frequented by the likes of Jean-Michel Basquiat and Brat Packers Rob Lowe and Andrew McCarthy.

Philly mural

In the summer of 2012 when out-of-towners Erica and Lucas Bryant bought their renovated row home on Philadelphia's Ellsworth Street in Point Breeze, the structure had everything they wanted, plus a bonus: a quirky, colorful mural of tumbling figures on an exposed wall facing 22d Street.

The mural was painted in 1987 by Keith Haring.

As reported by *Phily.com*, neither Lucas nor his wife knew who Haring was. Erica Bryant, 28, a native of St. Paul, Minn., was 5 in 1990, when the pop painter, who went from graffiti commando to art-world celebrity, died at 31 from complications of AIDS.

An email exchange between the couple and the Keith Haring Foundation, New York City lead to a restoration by The Philadelphia Mural Arts Program.

"We love it now," Erica Bryant said of the restored mural. "We're so proud of it."

Look back

Haring, born in Reading and raised in nearby Kutztown, was the subject of an exclusive story in 2006 when *Central Voice* friend and artist Karey Maurice shared with readers his recollections and experiences of being mentored by Haring.

"What I remember about this particular time was that I had just graduated from high school and my interest was more about fashion until I read about what was happening in New York City through magazines like *GQ, Interview, Paper Mag* and the *Village Voice*."

Artist Karey Maurice shared with Central Voice recollections and experiences of being mentored by Haring.

"In these articles, I read about the downtown art scene and that artists were curating exhibitions anywhere they could and nightclubs were very receptive towards these kind of shows. I soon began making visits to these clubs at night when I had

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ENDA: Small Biz to Boehner- You're Wrong

ANALYSIS

By Central Voice

Make no mistake about it, House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) opposes the Employment Non-discrimination Act passed last November by the Senate.

The bill now goes to the House where Boehner says the measure would put a financial burden on businesses.

"The Speaker believes this legislation will increase frivolous litigation and cost American jobs, especially small business jobs," Boehner spokesman Michael Steel said in a statement.

Although it is good to be King, the facts don't always acknowledge your crown.

Last July, the Government Accountability Office issued a report concluding that in states with LGBT workplace protections, "there were relatively few employment discrimination complaints based on sexual orientation and gender identity filed."

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin said, "The Speaker, of all people, should certainly know what it's like to go to work every day afraid of being fired. Instead of letting the far right trample him again, it's time for Speaker Boehner to stand with the majority of everyday Republican voters and support ENDA."

Despite Boehner's fears of "frivolous litigation" and job loss, Small Business Majority, a national, non-partisan small business organization representing America's 28 million small businesses, feels differently. Scientific public opinion polling released earlier this year by Small Business Majority about the views of business owners on ENDA protections shows support for ENDA.

John Arensmeyer, Founder & CEO of Small Business Majority, said, "The Senate's passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2013 is good news for small business owners, their workers and the economy. Small employers support policies that maximize their ability to attract and retain quality workers and help them grow their businesses. This legislation would do just that by leveling the playing field for small employers and workers and eliminating inefficiencies and costs that cut into profits and undermine small businesses' bottom lines."

Highlights from the national, scientific opinion poll, include:

- *Small business owners strongly favor federal and state laws protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination in employment: More than two-thirds of entrepreneurs (67%) believe federal law should prohibit employment discrimination against gay and transgender people. Seven in 10 owners in states without such policies also agree their state should have a law prohibiting this type of discrimination, and 40% strongly agree.*

- *Small businesses strongly believe an employer should not be able to fire or refuse to hire someone who is gay or transgender based on their (the employer's) religious beliefs: A 63% majority believes an employer should not be able to fire or refuse to hire someone who is gay or transgender if working with a gay or transgender employee conflicts with their (the employer's) religious beliefs. What's more, 70% believe a business should not be legally allowed to refuse services to some customers but not others based on religious beliefs.*

- *The vast majority of small business owners didn't know it is legal under federal and/or state law to fire or refuse to hire someone because they are gay or lesbian: When asked if, to the best of their knowledge, it is legal or illegal under federal law to fire or refuse to hire someone because they are gay or transgender, a striking 81% of small business owners said it is illegal. Merely 9% knew it is legal. In terms of state law, 78% of entrepreneurs were unaware that it is legal in their state to refuse to hire someone based on sexual orientation or gender identity.*

"Implementing non-discrimination laws that allow employers to treat all people equally regardless of sexual orientation will help small businesses retain more quality employees and free them from extra administrative burdens. We urge the House to build upon today's Senate vote by passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2013. It's the smart and right thing to do for small businesses, their employees and our country," Arensmeyer said.

Further, 96.6 percent of corporations on the Fortune 500 list (holdouts include Exxon Mobil and DISH) already have ENDA-like protections for employees. Although Apple's CEO Tim Cook have spoken out in favor of the bill, business lobbying organizations like the Business Roundtable, National Federation of Independent Business, and Chamber of Commerce have declined to take a position.

Haring Legacy *(cont'd)*

enough money and I also started to explore galleries in the East Village and Soho to check out the artwork of artist that were featured in the publications I was reading," Maurice remembers. Area was one of those night clubs.

"At first these artist seemed to be making art for their own personal reasons. Then Wall Street investors began to buy art just for the pure sake of investment, and that's when it became extremely competitive and a mad dash to become the richest or the most famous artist was infused into the scene. I tried to switch gears as fast as possible so I could get involved with what seemed at the time a sure thing to establish a career and get paid for your work," Maurice said..

Communal

"Fluid is a great word when you try to explain how communal the scene was. As long you hung out with the right people at the right club, you had the feeling of being next in line for "The Price is Right" or the next gallery stable call. I did the right club thing but I was really living in the moment and was too young to understand networking," Maurice said.

Warhol

"I love telling this story. My original plan was to meet Andy Warhol because I was really tracking his activities through the media and how he was hanging out with the very same artists who were beginning to become famous – Haring, Sandro Chia, Francesco Clemente, Kenny Scharf and Jean-Michel Basquiat, of course, but there were others. On the day Andy died I thought my dream was over because I wanted him to help me like he helped the other artist. He seemed to be the reason for everyone's interest at the time because he was hanging out again after a quiet period and he represented business and making money," Maurice said.

Pop Shop

"I got invited to be in a photo shoot by one of the employees who worked at the Pop Shop who was about to drop a 45" inch single called "Crack is Wack". He suggested I show up because Keith might be there and that I should show him my artwork. The day I met Keith we were on site at the location of the photo shoot and he rode his bike right up to me and asked me for some of my beer that I was drinking and I handed him the bottle. We did the photo shoot and after that I showed him some of my work and he invited me to the studio," Maurice remembered.

Haring Studio

"During the time in which I met Keith, a typical day was busy, busy, busy. That guy was incredible and he really taught me how to not waste time. There was always something going on at the studio. I'm glad that I was there during these times. It was really special because we could really talk about stuff. Because Keith trusted me, I became a runner for the Pop Shop and deliver merchandise to and for celebrities. I remember going to the bank with him to make these huge deposits of, like, $10,000 at one time," Maurice said.

"The funniest thing that happened while I was there involved designer Jean Paul Gautier. He was sitting on a garbage pail and the lid caved in on him and he was stuck inside the garbage for a minute. Keith was running around laughing saying 'Where's my camera? I can't believe I have a million dollar designer in my garbage'. At the time I didn't even know who Jean Paul was until I saw him on *Entertainment Tonight* the following week with the same striped jersey he was wearing that day in Keith's studio.," Maurice said.

"The most distinct thing that I can say about Keith Haring is that he believed in me the very first day we met which is more that I can say for most people in my life who expressed doubt when I made the decision to become an artist and live out what my inner voice has been telling me," Maurice concluded.

Hbg Mayor Wants to Hear from You

Continued from page one

some potential plans for the city's future.

Q - Chatter on the streets is that the city looks shabby - trash everywhere, street lights out, blighted buildings. What's a realistic plan and/or timetable to address these problems?

A - We have transition teams now looking into the many issues facing the city and offering recommendations on how to begin tackling the problems. It is impossible before I get their reports and am actually in office to offer a timetable. However, we will make the recommendations of the transition teams known to the public, and we are also holding a public forum so that residents can provide their input on solutions to the city's problems. A major priority will be replacing street lights to help curtail crime in our neighborhoods. We will move as quickly as possible so that residents can see some improvement in their daily lives.

Q - Apocryphal street chatter says Harrisburg is full of absentee landlords who do not take proper care of rental units. The City Codes Department is a small, overwhelmed staff that cannot possibly be expected to keep up with such a scenario.

A - Does it make sense to re-assign temporarily City Hall staff to the Codes Department in order to jump start rental unit inspections and code violation follow-ups?

Our transition teams are looking at how to beef up codes enforcement, and we are looking at the possibility of placing codes under the Public Safety Department along with police, fire, and emergency management. We will seek input from the public on the recommendations of our transition teams but absolutely agree that codes enforcement should be a priority in Harrisburg's revitalization.

(Outgoing Mayor Linda Thompson's proposed spending plan indicated hiring 12 police officers, 10 fire fighters, and two code enforcement officers.)

Q - Regarding the Harrisburg Strong Plan, will your first proposed budget as approved by City Council be subject to final approval of Receiver William Lynch? Do you foresee any special features to your first budget?

A - We are now examining a reorganization of city government to create a strong Economic and Community Development department, and the first budget will need to devise a way to fund this initiative. We will work closely with the Receiver and with City Council to develop a budget that funds our priorities in the most efficient and cost-saving ways possible. Again, we are looking to our transition teams to offer recommendations on how to achieve our goals within the resources allotted in the Harrisburg Strong plan.

Q - The impression many have of Broad Street Market, the oldest open-air market in the nation is that it hasn't learned much in its long history. For years, the entity has been juggled around in varying management scenarios. Any thoughts on how to make changes that will revive a wonderful city resource?

A - Our Economic and Community Development transition team is looking at ways to improve the operations of the Broad Street Market, and I am eagerly awaiting their suggestions. I would encourage your readers to evaluate and offer input on the new Broad Street Market Alliance initiative (visit BroadStreetMarketAlliance.org for more information). I am optimistic for the Market's future and believe we can see a swift turnaround in 2014.

Q - Will you take the Freedom to Marry Pledge?

A - Absolutely. (*Central Voice* reported in September 2011 that Harrisburg has the fourth highest concentration of same-sex households among cities and boroughs in the state, according to 2010 US Census figures released by UCLA's William's Institute. Three hundred and eighteen households reported themselves as same-sex couples which accounts for 15.45 of every 1,000 couples in the capital city. Nineteen Pennsylvania mayors have taken the pledge, which includes Lancaster Mayor J. Richard Gray.)

Papenfuse said, "The success of our administration will depend on the engagement of city residents and the support of our business community."

Email: mayorelectpapenfuse@gmail.com

Fund Connects Children to Performing Arts

An anonymous donor - $1 million - is asking the public and other donors to match the grant for a total of $2 million.

"This presents Whitaker Center a unique opportunity to establish a $2 million special endowment, the Advancing Performing Arts Challenge that will ensure the continued success and sustainability of Whitaker Center's performing arts programs. And sustainability is absolutely essential to increasing access to, and education in, the arts," said Gary St. Hilaire, Whitaker Center Board Chair.

If the public rises to the challenge, the anonymous donation and matching dollars are expected to generate about $100,000 of income annually from the endowment. The extra funds will allow Whitaker Center to connect tens of thousands of children with more opportunities to experience live performing arts.

"Experiencing performing arts not only enhances students' understanding of the world around them, but it also broadens their perspective on traditional academics," said Dr. Michael Hanes, Whitaker Center President and CEO. "The performing arts give students the creativity to express themselves, while challenging their intellect."

LGBT community center coalition

By Louie Marven
Executive Director
LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA

2013: Year of Growth and Collaboration at Center

2013 was a year of growth at the center, and we are thankful for the opportunity to have partnered in a number of different ways with local LGBT and ally community groups.

In summer of 2013, we welcomed Silent Witness Peacekeepers Alliance on board as a program of the center. Silent Witness continues to provide a non-confrontational buffer between the LGBT community and those who would protest LGBT events through peacekeeping, and by providing significant training in non-confrontation techniques. We couldn't be more proud to have the iconic Silent Witness rainbow umbrellas under our LGBT Center umbrella!

The center continues to serve as the fiscal sponsor to Lancaster Pride, which held the largest Lancaster Pride Festival and Celebration in June, and held ongoing community programming like story hour for families with young children and a highway cleanup.

Our Common Roads youth programs, Aging with Pride Initiative, and Women's Group were bolstered by guest speakers and presenters from Alder Health Services, the LGBT Elder Initiative, Capital L, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, TransCentralPA, and others.

The GSA Leadership Summit was our largest to date, with more than 300 students and staff participating in our annual youth conference presented in partnership with Planned Parenthood Keystone and Dickinson College.

The LGBT History Project increased its presence in the community in 2013, in large part because of a successful collaboration with Dickinson College Archives, where artifacts and archival material collected through the project are housed. These materials help us to tell the stories of LGBT history in central PA, which volunteers have been collecting through video interview. To contribute archival materials, sign up as a narrator, or learn more about the project, visit centralpalgbtcenter.org/lgbt-history-project.

Our facility at 1306 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg, also provided an opportunity to connect with lots of different local groups. In our first full year of operation at this location, lots of our community partners used the facility.

Some of those groups include Equality PA, which has office space at The Center, an alcoholics anonymous group which meets at The Center every Sunday at noon, Capital Region Stonewall Democrats, The Foundation For Hope, Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition, Camp Highlight, and local poet T.L. Waid. These groups used the facility for receptions, educational programs, board meetings, fundraisers, parties, and more.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our programs this year, and a special thanks to our volunteers, donors, and community partners who make these programs possible. Special thanks to *Central Voice* for continuing to provide space for community groups like the center to share our stories.

See you in 2014!

The mission of the LGBT Center of Central PA is to create common ground for the LGBT community and allies in central Pennsylvania by providing services through educational, cultural, and community activities that foster wholeness.

York events

Jan. 26-Jan. 26 - *A Concert of Western Swing with the Quebe Sisters*
Marketview Arts
Admission: $22/Adults, $10/Students
37 W. Philadelphia Street, York PA 17401
800-838-3006, www.susquehannafolk.org
A refreshing blend of western swing, 1940s era singing and Texas fiddling from three talented sisters.

Feb. 28-March 2 - *Pennsylvania Garden Show of York*
Utz Arena - York Expo Center
Admission: $10
334 Carlisle Ave, York, PA 17404
717-578-9029, www.pagsy.com
Mark your calendars now for a trip to the PA Garden Show of York, one of York's all-time favorite events. This year, our show opens Friday, February 28 and runs through Sunday, March 2, 2014. We are also planning an all new show theme for this must-see event, "Fairy Tale Gardens", where your favorite storybook characters come to life. Join in the fun and dress up as a fairy tale character.

The American Dream:

Why It Eludes Us

By Shane Davenport

As a nation, we have grown increasingly sensitive and are moving toward a greater acceptance of all people. Self esteem is more important than ever and consequently the main ideal to which we aspire is our own contentment. While not a bad thing, making contentment our main goal has created unintended consequences, especially to the Millennial Generation.

In our Post-Industrial era, we encourage children to be who they want to be. We teach them from Day One that the most important things in life are not acquiring wealth or building security. Instead, we encourage young adults to find their purpose and to pursue it gusto.

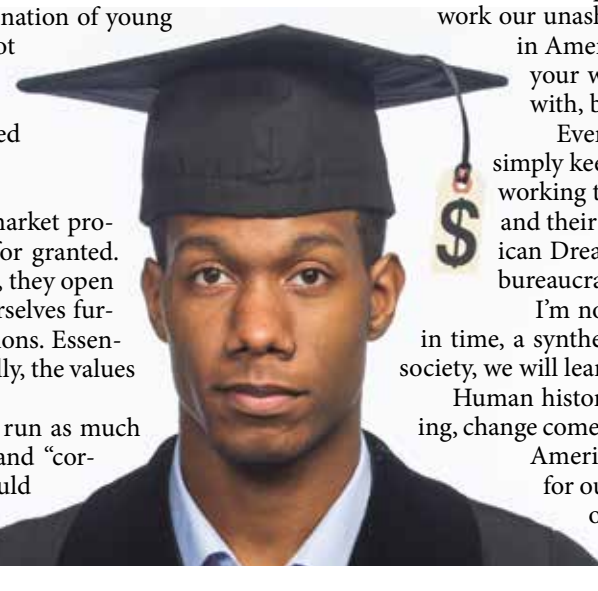
We teach children to attend college and to earn as high a degree as they have discipline to obtain. "Don't worry about the cost", our counselors say, "Financial aid will cover it, and when the time comes to pay it back, you will be earning a fine living."

While intentions may be good, what we have created is a nation of young adults with huge educational debt before they have even set foot into the workplace. Additionally, our educational system does not focus on providing us the skills necessary to run our own business. Rather, we are trained to be employees, highly educated employees, but employees nonetheless.

And then we need to factor in immigrants.

Driven to America by the ample opportunities our free-market provides, they effectively work an economic system that we take for granted. Devoid of idealistic teachings but full of hard-nose survival skills, they open up businesses and quietly thrive in our midst while we drive ourselves further into debt, while we party, and clamor over material possessions. Essentially, the different outcomes reflect a difference in values. Ironically, the values many immigrants hold work better in our system than our own.

We are a nation in which money rules supreme, a nation run as much by big corporations as government. So much so that "nation" and "corporation" are becoming synonymous terms. Such a world would understandably train people to serve by becoming cogs in the machine as opposed to building their own small machines. With Americans growing increasingly dissatisfied with this way of life, how much longer will "the machine" last?



Baby Boomers have made their mark on the nation in deep and profound ways. Unfortunately, the days of getting an education, working your way up the corporate ladder, buying a house, having a family, a dog and retiring with a pension, social security and a gold watch are over. Economic security is a commodity this nation has very little of in the bank. Americans are realizing that their destiny now lay in the fruits of a more independent organization of labor.

With this realization, many younger Americans experience frustration, anger and depression. When today's young adults realize that the way in which they've been molded to see the world has grown obsolete, and before they have even tried things out for themselves, they are hindered by a mass of debt. Compounding the problem is loss of jobs due to outsourcing and the older generation understandably holding onto jobs that they now need for survival.

Many members of Asian, African and European nations get their education in Europe where it is affordable or even free, then come to America to work our unashamedly Capitalist society. Many from these same nations study in America and then return home. They don't come here with the "work your way up the ladder" mindset Americans have been indoctrinated with, but with one of sheer entrepreneurship.

Even immigrants without higher education make things work by simply keeping an eye on the bottom line, staying focused and, most of all, working together. Immigrant values are similar to the values our founders and their immediate descendants held, the values from which "The American Dream" stems. Since those early days, industrialization and rampant bureaucracy has caused us to lose our way. The effects are manifest.

I'm not saying that either way is right or wrong. I am suggesting that, in time, a synthesis of the two is inevitable. As we move more towards a global society, we will learn the best of each others' cultures.

Human history is at an unprecedented crossroads right now. Although exciting, change comes with fears and uncertainties typical when great upheavals occur. America is a great nation, and regardless of the criticism we may receive for our bloody roots, oversights and imperfections, I believe the "idea" of what America should become in its next era could easily be a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The Forever Marathon, New Novel by Jameson Currier

Chelsea Station Editions has published Jameson Currier's new novel, *The Forever Marathon*, a wickedly delightful war of wits and whines between longtime companions during a two-day fight.

From their meeting as struggling graduate students in Manhattan to becoming the owners of expensive foreign cars and a country house in Pennsylvania, Jesse and Adam have spent twenty-four cantankerous years as significant others—half of their lives. Now in their late forties, a small domestic fight swells between the gay couple into a major battle, ensnaring a talkative, opportunistic young man as collateral damage.

Jameson Currier is the author of five novels: *Where the Rainbow Ends, a Lambda Literary finalist, The Wolf at the Door, The Third Buddha, What Comes Around,* and *The Forever Marathon*; and four collections of short fiction: *Dancing on the Moon; Desire, Lust, Passion, Sex; Still Dancing: New and Selected Stories*; and *The Haunted Heart and Other Tales*, which was awarded a Black Quill Award.

Jared Schaff Heads Student Coalition Group

By Central Voice

It's not your parents' coalition.

Hunger, homelessness and how to act non-violently are important to Erie's Jared Schaff, new head of the Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition (PSEC) Coordinating Committee.

The Gannon University student (Class of 2015), tells *Central Voice* that although PSEC is primarily an lgbt youth group, the coalition works "toward justice for all Pennsylvania youth," regardless of sexual orientation.

His activist gears kicked in about 16 months ago after attending the group's organizational meetings. Next, he attended a lobbying day for the PASS Act, the Pennsylvania Safe Schools Act. "I've fallen in love with the powerful people who make up this coalition and the strengths youth leaders have when they work together," he said.

Schaff is undecided, not about his sexuality but his political label.

"I'm an undecided," he said. He's watched pols from both sides of the aisle "impress and disappoint" him. He doesn't pick sides. He assess the individual politician rather than their party, focusing on policies rather than affiliations.

Schaff reflects the political zeitgeist.

More than 2.5 million voters have left the Democratic and Republican parties since the 2008 elections, while the number of independent voters continues to grow, a 2011 USA Today analysis shows. Statistics show registered Democrats declined in 25 of the 28 states that register voters by party. Republicans dipped in 21 states, while independents increased in 18 states.

Schaff acknowledges Pennsylvania's deeply rooted, traditional values but also thinks those values include fairness when it comes to lgbt civil rights.

A year ago a Franklin and Marshall poll indicated a big shift in the state: a majority of Pennsylvania voters (52%) now support marriage equality. That's a 38 point swing from 2006, the last time F&M polled the question. Likewise, a Quinnipiac poll released at the same time showed more voters support same sex marriage – 47% to 43% – a growing number that is still short of a majority in that poll.

"Intersectionality" is the buzz word on campus. Simply put, the word means finding connections across social justice issues.

Knitting those connections into the fabric of policies is important to Schaff. "Poverty is poverty. Every affected demographic needs to talk to one another," Schaff explains.

Schaff wants to emphasize the community aspect of the student coalition.

Too often, he said, advocacy organizations "focus on completing tasks and forget to build community". With that in mind, PSEC has entitled its 2014 Youth Action Conference "Igniting a Pennsylvania Youth Movement for Trans Justice and Freedom". The event is Feb. 14-16, University of Pennsylvania. The 2013 Conference was the largest statewide gathering of LGBT youth in Pennsylvania history.

Info: youthactionconference.com

Schaff

arts & entertainment

GREENBELT EVENTS
The Hold Steady!
Feb. 7

Abbey Bar, Appalachian Brewing Co.
Doors: 8 p.m.; Starts 9 p.m.
$22 advance/ $25 door

OPEN STAGE OF HARRISBURG
Fences
Feb 7 - Mar 1

Denzel Washington, James Earl Jones, and Viola Davis won Tony Awards for their performances in this Pulitzer Prize-Winning drama. Troy Maxson is a former star of the Negro baseball leagues who now supports his family as a sanitation worker in 1957 Pittsburgh. Excluded as a black man from the major leagues during his prime, Troy's bitterness takes its toll on his relationships with his wife and his son, who now wants his own chance to play ball. In a changing world, Troy builds a fence to protect what's his and hold off what threatens, but things happen when a strong man's dreams are thwarted.
Tickets: 717-232-OPEN (6736)

MAJESTIC THEATRE
Gettysburg College
The Best of Forbidden Broadway
Jan 10, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

From ANNIE to PHANTOM to WICKED, this fall-down funny, satirical roast of over 30 Broadway hits features outrageous costumes, silly spoofs of the songs you know by heart and madcap impressions by a stellar cast! New spoofs include Patti LuPone in GYPSY and GREASE "You're the One That I Hate!" It's never been more fun poking fun at your favorite musicals and stars! Whether you are a seasoned theatre-goer or new to it all, the Tony Award® winning Forbidden Broadway is your one-stop ticket to non-stop laughs: a hip and fresh view of theatre's tried and true that will leave you begging for more!
Tickets: 717-337-8200; majestictheater@gettysburg.edu

Summer of Love
Feb. 14, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Featuring 18 performers, full horn section, strings, two keyboardists, percussionists, multiple background vocalists and an incredible five piece rock rhythm section, the show recreates "note for note and absolutely live" the songs, and the psychedelically flavored spirit, of the Woodstock Generation. Music by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Dylan, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, The Doors, Santana, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, Jefferson Airplane, The Association, The Turtles, The Beach Boys, Mamas and the Papas, Ravi Shankar, Joe Cocker, The Spencer Davis Group, Cream, The Youngbloods, and many more nuggets and surprises. The concert also features Marc Rubinstein's Pig Light Show which is recognized as one of the most famous psychedelic light shows in rock history.
Tickets: 717-337-8200; majestictheater@gettysburg.edu

STAND CAPITAL
WAR
January 25, 7:30 p.m.

WAR is not a band. WAR is a Movement! You'll enjoy classic hits including "Low Rider," "Cisco Kid," "The World is a Ghetto," "Slippin' into Darkness," "Why Can't We Be Friends?" and more! WAR's long-hailed musical virtuosity and influences, which include jazz, rock, funk, soul, R&B and Latin, have impacted their fans, as well as other musicians, regardless of race, generation or genre. Founding member Lonnie Jordan states that this is one "WAR" that has truly brought people together for peace, love and harmony.
Info: www.mystrandcapitol.org

SHARADIN BIGLER THEATRE
Ephrata Performing Arts Center
The Wizard of Oz
Young Performers' Edition
February 7 - 23

Every year EPAC presents a Kids4Kids show, providing great experience for local kids between the ages of 5 and 16. This year's show is everyone's favorite, the fantastical adventures of Dorothy Gale, the Kansas farm girl who wonders what life would be like in the perfect world "over the rainbow." Then a twister comes and does take her over the rainbow — to a world of witches good and wicked, Munchkins, a scarecrow who longs for a brain, a tin man who wishes for a heart, a cowardly lion in need of some courage, and the wonderful Wizard of Oz himself.
Buy Tickets Online; Phone: (717) 733-7966

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
March 20-April 5

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest topped the Best Seller lists in 1962 and went on to sweep the Oscars with its 1975 film adaptation starring Jack Nicholson. But those who saw only the film have missed the emotional complexity of its 1963 Broadway stage adaptation by Dale Wasserman of Man of la Mancha fame. Winner of the 2001 Tony for Best Revival, the play captures all of the seriocomic complexity of Ken Kesey's best-selling novel about a mental hospital patient who leads a revolt against the formidable Nurse Ratched.
Tickets: (717) 733-7966

HERSHEY THEATRE
Sister Act
Feb. 25, - March 2

Sister Act is Broadway's feel-amazing musical comedy smash! The New York Post calls it "RIDICULOUSLY FUN," and audiences are jumping to their feet in total agreement! Featuring original music by 8-time Oscar® winner ALAN MENKEN (Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid, Little Shop of Horrors), Sister Act tells the story of Deloris Van Cartier, a wannabe diva whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a crime and the cops hide her in the last place anyone would think to look—a convent! Under the suspicious watch of Mother Superior, Deloris helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she unexpectedly rediscovers her own. A sparkling tribute to the universal power of friendship, Sister Act is reason to REJOICE!
Tickets: 717-534-3405, 1-800-745-3000, HersheyTheatre.com.

noah's ark veterinary center

By Chelsea Faircloth, DVM, & Elizabeth Root, CVT

Factors to Consider before Purchase or Adoption

This holiday season, you may be considering adding to your family by adopting/purchasing a new dog. Before purchase, there are many factors to consider when choosing the right dog for your needs and lifestyle.

Make sure you have the time and finances for a new canine companion. While dogs aren't as expensive as children, they do need basic amenities such as food, yearly wellness exams and booster shots with your veterinarian. In some cases, your new pet may become sick and require a more intensive visit with the veterinarian and this can be costly.

Time is also a factor because your new canine will need to be exercised, attend obedience classes, and receive one-on-one time with you to know that he or she is loved.

Before going to the shelter or animal rescue, ask yourself if you want a puppy or an adult dog. Puppies appeal to many people because they are cute and cuddly. However, they may need more attention than an adult dog
Puppies need to go outside frequently to urinate/defecate. Puppies need to be house-trained, crate-trained, obedience-trained and socialized with other people and dogs. This is a time-consuming process and takes a lot of patience. It can be very rewarding to teach your new puppy all of these skills but you must make time in your schedule to achieve these goals.

A new puppy also needs many visits to the veterinarian early in life in order to update vaccines and check stool samples and this can be costly. Many middle-aged or older dogs are already house-trained, crate-trained and have some obedience skills. This takes pressure off of you to teach them those skills.

The level of socialization of older dogs depends on their history. It may take time, but an older dog will warm up to you and your family. Of course, middle-aged and older dogs have special needs. They may come with pre-existing medical conditions that need to be managed with visits to your veterinarian. Every dog is prone to disease as they age, so getting annual exams and senior blood work is important to screen for such diseases (i.e. diabetes, hypothyroidism, etc).

One must also consider type of breed when selecting your new family member. Choosing between a pure breed or a mixed breed is one factor to consider. In general, mixed breeds live longer than pure breeds. Some people choose pure breeds because of their distinct and often predictable appearances and personalities.

Beware of designer breeds such as Goldendoodles, etc. These dogs can encompass the best of both breeds OR the worst of each breed. Be sure to research types of breeds prior to making your selection. Certain breeds are predisposed to blood disorders, orthopedic issues, cancer, etc. Some breeds require more exercise and attention than other breeds. Animal Planet's Dog Breed Selector online tool is a helpful resource.

Hopefully these tips help you the right dog for you and your family. There are many pets (various breeds, both young and old)that need good homes. We recommend trying your local shelters and rescues first.

Hint: If you choose to purchase from a breeder, request references from previous customers.

Noah's Ark Veterinary Center, 6325 Chelton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717)652-5923

arts & entertainment

WHITAKER CENTER
Clannad
Feb. 7, 8-10 p.m.

Clannad are an Irish band formed in 1970 in Gweedore, County Donegal. Their music has been variously described as bordering on folk and folk rock, traditional Irish, Celtic and New Age, often incorporating elements of an even broader spectrum of smooth jazz and Gregorian chant. They shot to international recognition in 1982 with the release of the "Theme from Harry's Game", becoming the most successful band in the Celtic music genre.
Tickets: 717-214-ARTS (2787)

Gay politics begins at home

By Frank Pizzoli

ANALYSIS: MAKING CHANGE

All politics is local US House Speaker Tip O'Neill always said.

And local remains the case with LGBT politics.

In order to make change you begin at home. At least that's the angle of a report by Equality Federation, a national organization with 50 state affiliates, among them Equality PA headed by Ted Martin.

Building Momentum for Change: How Local and Incremental Policy Campaigns Contribute to Statewide Victories argues that local and incremental work, such as municipal nondiscrimination ordinances or inclusive protections for state employees, are often overlooked by activists, donors, and the media. Overall, the report argues, these local wins have a positive impact on the LGBT movement.

Equality Pennsylvania executive director Ted Martin, says "advocacy at the local level drives change. Our report says to individuals and allies in municipalities across the state 'you can do it, you can have a direct impact.'"

Equality PA is currently focused on passing a nondiscrimination law in the Keystone State. "People in Pennsylvania find it hard to believe that LGBT individuals can still be evicted or fired simply for being gay," Martin explains.

Although marriage equality issues have grabbed headlines in the state and nation, Martin says "there are many issues in addition to marriage equality which affect LGBT individuals. There's a lot of work to be accomplished."

Change at the municipal level is especially important, Martin explains, because when he and others like him meet with elected officials they can point to street level support for LGBT civil rights.

Martin used to hear from elected officials that they don't have any gay constituents.

"I don't hear that anymore," Martin says.

Martin says that if he can explain to an elected official that municipalities in his district already have nondiscrimination ordinances he can politely explain that his "constituents are ahead" of that elected official.

Accomplishments noted on the organization's web site:

1996: Founded as Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights and staffed with one attorney working out of his home

1997: Started offering direct legal services and launched the Family Rights Project

2000: Established the Legal Clinic to provide services across the state

2002: Helped secure same-sex second parent adoption rights across Pennsylvania, a critical expansion of LGBT family rights in the state

2005: Launched Employment Rights Project that focused solely on providing legal services to LGBT employees who have been victims of discrimination

2006: Defeated constitutional amendment banning marriage for gay couples

2007: Introduced state non-discrimination legislation that would protect LGBT people from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations

2008: Launched the Student Network Across Pennsylvania (SNAP), a coalition that facilitates greater communication and collaboration among Pennsylvania's LGBT students and collegiate organizations

2009: Reorganized with new board and mission; formed Equality Pennsylvania to specifically advance LGBT equality through policy initiatives

There are 33 municipal non-discrimination ordinances in the state. Equality PA has played various roles at various levels in many of them. Equality PA was founded in 1996, and Equality Federation, a group of state based groups, was formed in 1997.

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Creep of the Week: Cardinal Timothy Dolan

By D'Anne Witkowski

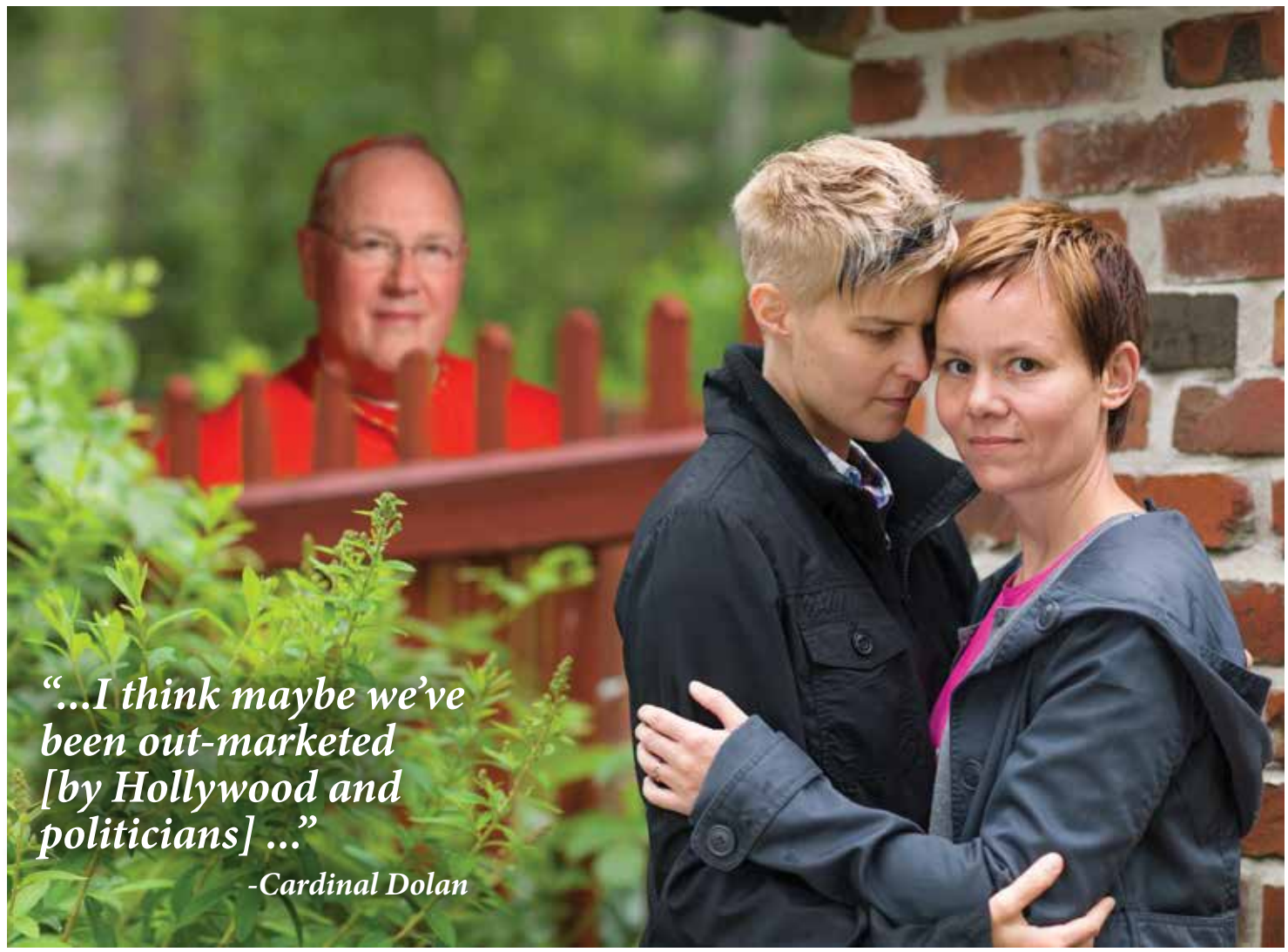

Photo illustration by Central Voice

What's more powerful, Hollywood and Washington, D.C. or God?

If you don't believe in God, that's easy: Hollywood and D.C., because, duh, they are populated by actual people. But if you believe in God, surely you think He has more sway than the cities that brought us Brokeback Mountain and Barney Frank, right?

Maybe not, it turns out. At least when the issue at hand is marriage equality.

On Nov. 29 Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, had a heart to heart with David Gregory. The topic turned to all those gays getting married and Gregory wondered what Dolan thought about the rapid advances equality has made in recent months.

"I'd be a Pollyanna to say that there doesn't seem to be kind of a stampede to [legalize same-sex marriage]," Dolan responded. "I regret that, I wish that were not the case."

Nice use of the word "stampede," by the way. It brings to mind an image of gay and lesbian couples mowing down everybody in between them and legal marriage. As if the fight for marriage equality is akin to Walmart on Black Friday with folks stomping on each other's heads to get a discount flat screen.

David Gregory then asked, "But why do you think the church is losing the argument on it, in effect?"

Note that Gregory did not ask Dolan if the church is losing the argument. He flat out said, "Dude, the church is losing this shit, what gives?"

Dolan's answer is quite revelatory.

"Well, I think maybe we've been out-marketed, sometimes," he said. "I don't know, when you have forces like Hollywood, when you have forces like politicians, when you have forces like some opinion-molders that are behind it, it's a tough battle."

First of all, *out-marketed?* This isn't Coke v. Pepsi, pal.

Secondly, did he just say that the forces of "Hollywood" and "politicians" are beating out the force of the Catholic Church? That God's condemnation of homosexuality is no match for a bunch of celebrities and senators? Why, yes. Yes, he did.

And for what injustice are Hollywood and Washington, D.C. at fault? "We've been caricatured as being anti-gay," Dolan said.

Oh, now that's rich, especially coming from a man who personally lobbied against marriage equality in New York and who once included homosexuality in a list of "contemporary threats to marriage" including "polygamy, adultery, [and] forced marriages." As if there's some giant conspiracy to make the Catholic Church seem like it doesn't like gays. Because they sure don't make any secret about their anti-gay lifestyle.

Dolan likened the fight against marriage equality to the fight against abortion.

"Back in 1973 with Roe v. Wade, everybody said this is a forgone conclusion, in a couple of years this issue is going to go away" he said. "To this day it remains probably the most divisive issue in American politics."

Gregory asked, "So you don't think the gay marriage debate is over?"

"No. I don't think it is," Dolan responded.

In other words, lesbians and gays may be winning the battle to have our families recognized as legal and loving, but people like Dolan will keep up the fight to turn back the clock to a time when our families were considered a crime and an abomination.

Art Association Offers Classes

The Art Association of Harrisburg is offering 33 different classes for adults and youth for the Winter Semester beginning the week of Jan. 6 and continuing through mid-March.

Two-dimensional classes are held at the 21 North Front Street headquarters of AAH, while three-dimensional courses are presented in the four studios in Reservoir Park.

The schedule is available on the AAH website at www.artassocofhbg.com.

Three-dimensional classes for adults include: Handbuilt and Wheel Pottery, Clay Sculpture, Jewelry Workshop, Majolica, and Open Sculpture Studio.

Adult drawing classes include: Basic Drawing, Pastel, Figure Drawing & Painting, Caricature, Character Design, and The Architect's Sketchbook.

Painting classes for adults are: Basic Oil, Acrylics, Watercolour, Open Painting Studio, Wildlife Drawing & Painting, Landscape Painting, Mixed Media, Still-Life in Collage, and Open-Easel Painting Studio.

Also offered are Basics of Digital Photography, Introduction to the Digital Realm, and Artistic Journalling.

For youth, classes include: Mommy & Me Toddler Class, Art for Kids (ages 5-7), Junior Painting (ages 8-10), Clay for Kids (ages 8-12), Fantasy Art (ages 10-18), and Anime & Manga (ages 10-18).

Info: www.artassocofhbg.com for the complete schedule.

Bal Masque, March 1, Mayor Papenfuse Honorary Chair

Harrisburg Mayor Eric Papenfuse is Honorary Chair March 1 for Bal Masque, a popular annual event of The Art Association of Harrisburg to be held at Appalachian Brewing Company. This year's theme - "Literary Allusions" – reflects Papenfuse's role as founder of the Midtown Scholar Bookstore. The Bal Masque, first held in 1941, is the region's Mardi Gras costume ball benefitting Art Association education and exhibition programs. Guests may attend either in costume in conjunction with the literary theme, or in party attire. Open seating tickets are $50 and reserved are $80. The Erica Everest Band performs throughout the evening, alternating with music by DJs Chuck Schulz and Jonathan Frazier. There is a Silent Auction. The heavy hors d'ouevres will be served at food stations throughout the Abbey Bar, and a cash bar with ABC's great brews and other libations will be available. In the Gallery area, photographer Paul Vasiliades will be on hand to capture images of attendees, and popular psychic Dr. Edwin North will give readings for guests. He predicts a wonderful time for all!

Info: www.artassocofhbg.com; 717-236-1432.

Rep. Kim Wants Higher Minimum Wage, Refuses Automatic Raise

In an effort to provide low-income earners with a livable wage, state Rep. Patty Kim, D-Dauphin, is introducing a bill to increase the state's minimum wage from the current $7.25 an hour to $9 an hour and then $10.10 an hour one year later.

Kim also refused an annual automatic raise guaranteed state legislators and other public officials.

Kim made the hourly wage announcement at Harrisburg's YWCA, surrounded by women who would benefit from the increased wage and have a decent chance at economic independence.

"The current minimum wage, $7.25 per hour, simply does not provide a livable wage," Kim said. "For example, a single mother with two children who works 40 hours per week, for 52 weeks a year, makes $15,080. This is $4,500 below the poverty line, which is $19,530 for a household of three."

Increasing the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour would boost the earnings of a full-time worker by more than $5,900 to $21,008, which would be enough to move a family of three above the federal poverty threshold.

Kim said the effects of the low wage are felt especially by women, who account for two-thirds of workers earning minimum wage. It is anticipated that raising the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour could force raises for about 1 million Pennsylvanians.

Kim's Harrisburg-based House district ranks 10th of 203 statewide in the percentage of households living in poverty.

"As the economy continues to sputter, many people, especially single mothers, are struggling to pay bills, put food on their tables and provide for their families," Kim said. "Salaries are stagnant while inflation has driven up the cost of just about everything we buy. The time has come to give workers a raise."

Joining Kim at the news conference was state House Democratic Leader Frank Dermody, D-Allegheny, who said that by raising the minimum wage, state legislators can raise thousands of Pennsylvanians to a better life.

"We need to increase the minimum wage and make working families a priority," Dermody said, "It's a sound government policy that a number of other states already have done, including five other states in 2013 alone. We want to see Pennsylvania join their ranks in 2014."

House Democratic Whip Mike Hanna, D-Clinton/Centre, who also attended the news conference, said Gov. Tom Corbett's economic policy of providing more than $1 billion in corporate tax favors has failed. He said it's time to put Pennsylvania workers and families first.

"Raising the minimum wage will do what Governor Corbett's corporate welfare agenda hasn't done -- spark new life in our economy and create more jobs," Hanna said. "Raising the minimum wage puts more money in the pockets of working families when they need it most, boosting their spending power and our economy."

Raise refused

As she promised when running for office, Kim, will return her cost-of-living adjustment to the state's General Fund. She will also seek a vote on her legislation to eliminate the automatic cost of living adjustment (COLA) for lawmakers and other state officials.

Last Dec. 1, state lawmakers received a 0.25 percent automatic COLA. Kim said the COLA would add approximately $17.50 to her monthly salary.

"At a time when workers across the state are going without their raises, and many seniors are going without their Social Security COLAs, it's unconscionable that their elected officials should automatically receive a cost-of-living increase," Kim said, "It's even more important to pass my bill to eliminate automatic COLAs and reform the way COLAs are given to elected officials going forward."

Kim does not accept any per diems as a legislator, said these types of perks for legislators are unnecessary and further the public's cynicism toward their elected officials.

Kim and Rep. Jerry Mullery, D-Luzerne, are sponsors of H.B. 1035, which would eliminate the automatic COLAs. The bill is currently in the House State Government Committee.

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Harrisburg Diocese to Survey Parishioners on Gay Marriage, Other Topics

By Central Voice

The Vatican is asking bishops, including the Harrisburg Diocese, to participate in a 39-question survey that covers issues of church and family ranging from birth control to gay marriage.

The Diocese will participate in the survey that was expected to be completed by the end of December, according to Victoria Laskowski, the Diocese's director of marriage and family ministries.

The survey is worldwide in preparation for a synod, a meeting of bishops, scheduled to convene October 2014. Survey results will be incorporated into a working document for the meeting. Popes traditionally use the findings of synods to create their own documents on a given subject, in this case the family, according the Diocese's web site.

The Harrisburg Diocese will distribute the survey to all priests and deacons in its 15 counties, according to Laskowski. Others involved in the marriage ministry of the parishes also may be consulted, the diocese said.

Although not a public opinion survey, the endeavor is the first time the Vatican has asked bishops to query parish priests on the views of their parishioners in preparation for a synod.

In its entirety, questions cover nine topical areas. Parish priests will sample parishioners on how Catholic teaching on the value of the family has been received and understood. Significant to the region's lgbt, the survey will ask about marriage according to the church's definition of natural law.

Questions will also cover local efforts to support and promote family life as well as how the church is able to minister and care for people in what the church defines as irregular marriage situations, including the religious education of the children of these marriages.

The survey also explores the openness of married couples to life and the Sacraments of the church.

Laskowski explained that the survey "has been distributed to all priests and deacons, as well as other leadership people in the parishes and schools."

The distribution includes Lancaster, Dauphin, Lebanon, York, Adams, Franklin, Mifflin, Juniata, Cumberland, Perry, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Snyder and Union counties. That distribution would account for "136 active priests and 69 deacons," Laskowski said. The Diocese's geographic area includes 89 parishes with 249,000 Catholics.

Besides active priests and deacons, Laskowski said, "all lay Catholics have been invited to complete the survey by going to www.hbgdiocese.org."

Regarding LGBT parishioners, the Catholic Church does sponsor a group called Courage. The mission is premised upon the belief that one should not act on his or her same-sex feelings. Think "hate the sin, not the sinner". There is a Courage chapter located in Hanover.

The mission of Courage is in stark contrast to Dignity, a once-functioning group within the Catholic Church that held services and support gatherings for LGBT individuals. Dignity did not hold to the standard that acting on same-sex feelings was wrong or sinful.

Harrisburg's Barry Loveland has been involved with Dignity since 1984.

"The local chapter has been an official chapter of Dignity/USA since 1975. Dignity/USA and Dignity/Central PA has never been 'sanctioned' by the Catholic Church," Loveland said.

The central Pennsylvania chapter in its first 20 years or so had a "connection" to the official Church through retired priest Father Wallace Sawdy who was active in the local chapter of Dignity and actually provided Mass to the group on a regular basis, Loveland explains.

The chapter was also able to obtain the services of other local priests who would occasionally celebrate Mass.

"It is unclear how much awareness the Harrisburg Diocese had at the time of Father Sawdy's ministry to Dignity/Central PA, or the involvement of other priests, but at some point Father Sawdy mentioned that the Diocese had acknowledged that he had a 'special ministry' to gay people," Loveland said.

Father Sawdy was popular within the region's gay community and was fond of saying with regard to the acceptance of LGBT individuals in religious circles as fully human and unflawed: "That's what God wants. And what God wants God eventually gets."

Loveland thinks the survey is "a step in the right direction because the body of the Church is changing as society changes, even though the official teachings have not kept up with the evolution of the societal culture."

Parish priests are more in touch with this evolution than those further up in the hierarchy, Loveland observes.

"It would be more telling of the shift in attitudes and beliefs in the Church if the survey were available to all parishioners."

Central Voice asked Loveland how an LGBT or supportive individual can work around the Church's "hate the sin, love the sinner" position. "I think all LGBT Catholics have struggled with the Church's teachings and tenets, just as many Catholic progressives in general have struggled with other archaic positions of the Church that do not reflect our contemporary society," Loveland said.

Loveland notes that many have left the Church "as a result of not being able to reconcile these issues with their core beliefs and others remain reluctantly and ignore those things that they do not agree with." That sentiment reflects what many American Catholics practice regarding barrier and other methods of birth control and abortion.

Laskowski said that any Catholic is welcome to complete the survey.

"But they should be sure to read the introduction to the survey for important information, as well as the Preparatory Document", which is available as a link within the survey. Link - www.hbgdiocese.org.

Laskowski says "This is not an easy set of questions, but we thought it would be best to make all of them available to anyone who wants to answer them."

The purpose of the survey, Laskowski explains, "is NOT to discuss any changes in doctrine. The purpose of the survey IS to learn what is currently happening in the churches and to look at what pastoral approaches might be most helpful."

Meanwhile, surveys on attitudes within organized religious groups reveals a set of interesting numbers.

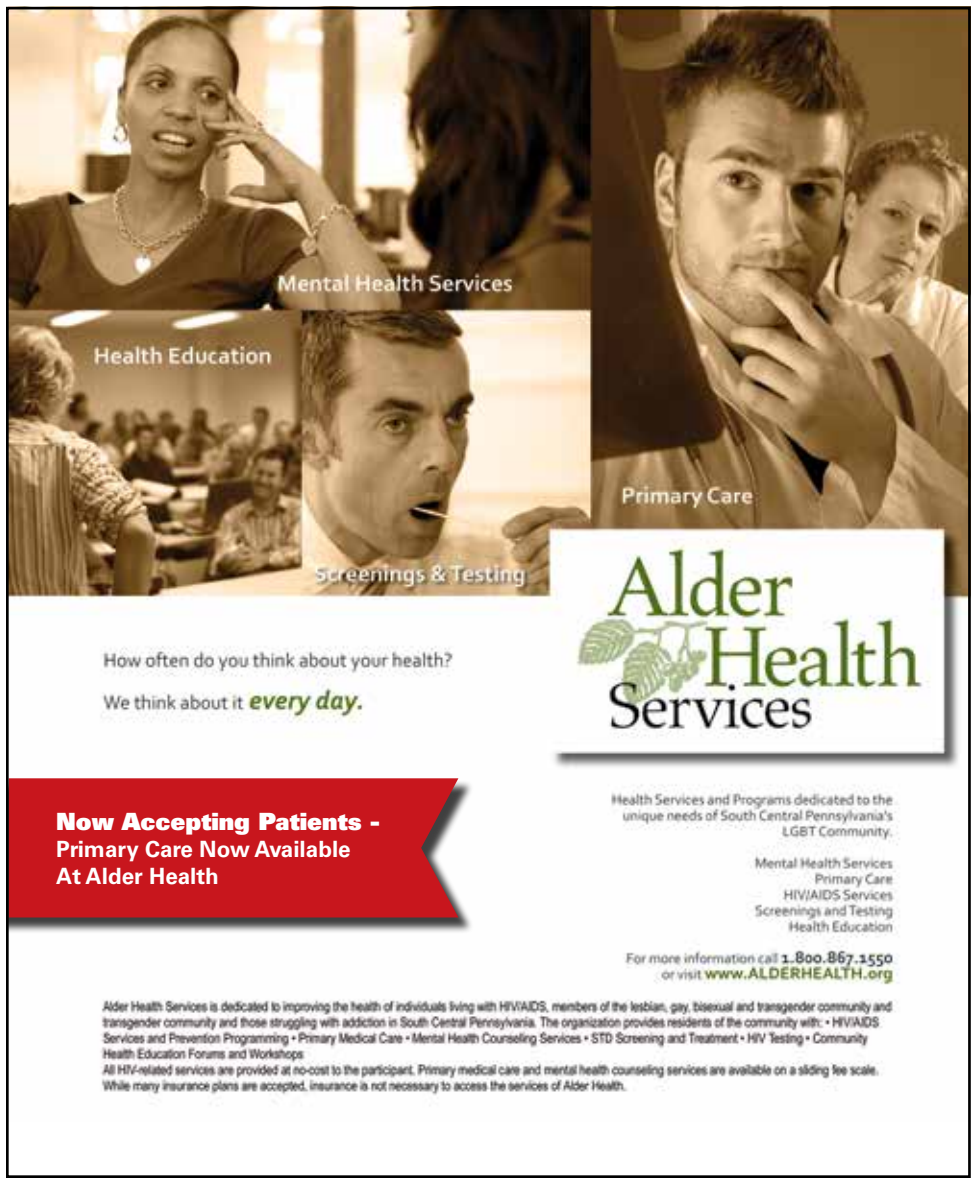
Except for the Episcopal Church, which recognized same-sex unions in 2009 and ordains openly gay and lesbian priests, the leadership of the country's major Christian denominations has presented a solid front against the spread of same-sex marriage across the country.

Further down the totem pole, churches are moving on without their leadership.

According to a forthcoming report from the National Congregations Study at Duke University, the number of congregations allowing openly gay and lesbian members has increased from 38 to 48 percent since 2006. Twenty-seven percent of churches gave gay and lesbian congregants leadership roles in the same timeframe—an 8 percent jump.

Indeed, while public support for same-sex marriage shot up in the last 10 years—in 2003, only 33 percent of the public supported gay unions; today, 55 percent do—polls have generally shown attitudes among religious folk trending upward more slowly.

While the numbers from the National Congregations Study offer a bottom-up view of how things are changing in the pews, change in attitudes among the faithful are not evenly distributed among denominations. While a majority of Catholics and mainline Protestants now support same-sex marriage, only 19 percent of white evangelicals and 37 percent of minority Protestants do.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Collecting Dues from Non-union Members?

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) Pennsylvania recently released an ad calling for an end to automatic dues deductions for unions representing public employees.

The ad focuses on two public unions, the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA) and the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Local 1776, for using taxpayer resources to collect dues and to lobby for political causes.

The ad highlights the Avon Grove School District, where a newly negotiated contract includes automatic dues deductions and fair share fees for the first time. This means the school district must deduct union dues from teachers' paychecks and send it on to the PSEA. It also means even teachers who are not members of the union must pay a portion of union dues — or fair share fees — which are about 75 percent the amount of full membership dues.

The teachers featured in the video say they see fair share fees as a violation of their freedom.

The ad points out that the PSEA spent $3.3 million in 2012 on political lobbying and advertising. And while the union claims that fair share fees do not go towards these lobbying activities, they do make it possible to allocate more money to those activities. Money is fungible, after all. Every new dollar from fair share fees that can go to fund normal operating expenses is a dollar that can be used from existing coffers to fund political activities.

The ad also calls out the UFCW, a union that has strongly opposed liquor privatization in Pennsylvania, and its leader Wendell W. Young, IV. The UFCW represents the government-owned wine and liquor store employees. They are required to have union dues deducted from their paychecks even if they don't want to join.

Along with ads attacking Republican Gov. Tom Corbett, UFCW also paid for television ads that show a young girl at her father's funeral and links liquor privatization with higher drunken driving rates. The union spent around $1 million on these television ads.

UFCW collects $1.2 million in dues each year, the ad states, while Young makes nine times the salary of a typical UFCW employees.

Lebanon Pastor *(cont'd from page one)*

Schaefer's marrying his son and those who support his action as taking "the law into their own hands" and undermining the church's credibility and integrity. Although Boger meant church law, Pennsylvania law does not allow same-sex couples to marry, a law that is currently being challenged from a multitude of legal directions. In that regard both the United Methodist Church and Pennsylvania state law mimic each other.

In an interesting backstory, Boger testified during the church trial that six weeks before filing his complaint that his mother, who was employed as the church's choir director, felt as if she were forced to submit her resignation to the church. "He said the two events were unrelated," Schaefer said.

Regardless of the sequence of the events, Schaefer sounds like a man undaunted in his resolve to do what he thinks is right.

"What propels me to be a public, outspoken advocate for the LGBTQ community is that I was asked to answer for my actions. I see it as 'outing,'" he explains. Schaefer had long been a silent supporter of gay civil rights but, as he explained, "I did not want to divide my church." As he said during the proceeding, "I cannot go back to being a silent supporter. I must continue to be in ministry with all people and speak for LGBTQ people."

If he decides to leave his church, he does not lose his Princeton Seminary degree. His upset church can only set rules for ministers ordained into their ranks, not all ministers or other organized religions.

"Should I decide to seek membership in the United Church of Christ, or as *Central Voice* has asked about, the Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit, like any other candidate I would have to complete their ordination requirements," Schaefer explains.

Reflecting upon what has been a draining experience for him, Schaefer says, "I remain inspired by so many people. The outpouring of support, handwritten notes, social network communications, there are so many people out there who understand what is happening."

The day following the church jury's decision to suspend Schaefer, a group called Faithful America was planning to deliver more than 19,000 petition signatures to United Methodist Bishop Peggy Johnson.

The petition reads: "Bishop Peggy Johnson, please join with the growing number of United Methodists who are obeying Jesus' command to love our neighbors and disregarding the church's immoral anti-gay rules. Don't allow any more trials for pastors who officiate at gay weddings."

There was a time when women were not ordained yet alone promoted to positions of authority in her church.

MCC column

By Rev. Lori Rivera, Pastor
MCC of the Spirit

"Say No With Grace and Be Kind to Me"

Happy New Year! Have you made your New Year's Resolution?

I'm not fond of resolutions. Usually I don't fulfill them and become disappointed in myself. And then it becomes discouraging to trying something new or just seems to add stress to my life.

What I have found in the last month or so are a couple of "sayings" or "thoughts" that I am trying to incorporate into my life. I am trying to make them part of my life not just a short term resolution but as a lifestyle change. I would like to share them with you.

They are "Say no with grace" and "be kind to me" - show myself compassion.

The first, "Say no with grace", came to me while I was attending an MCC Clergy Wellbeing Retreat. We, MCC clergy and our facilitator, were spending time taking about the things that stress us out. For me it was my work load. I am a "type A" and am determined to get everything I said I would do - done. I never say no to anyone who asks me to do something. I would take it on and tell myself that I would figure out how to get it all done later. This began having some negative consequences on my health.

Back to the retreat. While we were talking, it was as if a light bulb when off over my head like you see in cartoons. I realized that when I ask someone else to do something I give them an out. I usually pre-ask by saying, "Now you don't have to say yes" or "please don't answer now, please pray over this request or ministry need. I'll join you in prayer also and you can get back to me another day."

My light bulb was that I never use these lines for myself. I just jump in and say yes. So through the help of others I've come up with a couple of what I hope will be easy responses when someone asks me to do something. The first "thank you so much for asking, please let me pray about this and get back to you" and the other "Thank you so much for considering me for this but at this time I cannot give it the attention it needs."

The first gives me time to really think about something I might want to do and the second gives me a quick out of something I'm truly not the least bit interested in. My prayer is that these statements will help me to say no gracefully without feeling guilty.

The second "be kind to me" also came about due to the clergy retreat. Maybe it is something that comes with age and wisdom (I hear some of you laughing already), but we are often our own worst enemy. We are hard on ourselves. And I certainly include myself in this. We don't give ourselves a break.

So as I learn to say no gracefully, I want to also be kind to myself remembering that saying No is OK.

So why am I taking time in this article to write all this about myself. I know I'm opening up myself to many folks who don't even know who I am. But I also know that there are many folks reading this who are just like me or very similar. You too are saying yes to every request. You never say no and then kick yourself (that's not being kind) because you said yes and now have another "thing" to get done. As we begin this new year maybe it's time to find your "sayings". Find your own way of saying no and find your own way to be kind to yourself.

One way we can all be kind to ourselves is to feed our spiritual self. There are approximately 25 open and affirming congregation in the greater Harrisburg area. There are many denominations and religions that accept and affirm all people of the community. One place to find the list of open and affirming congregations is on the website for The Interfaith Alliance of PA under the LGBT Interfaith Coalition heading.

Yet of course you can always join us at MCC of the Spirit at 2973 Jefferson Street in Harrisburg. Our Sunday worship service is a 10 a.m. And if being nice to yourself includes finding a fellowship group - after church each Sunday a bunch of us get together for brunch/lunch. Our bunch, which will have anywhere from 5 to 25 folks, include all who wish to participate as we visit various restaurants around the Harrisburg area.

May this New Year be a blessing to you as you fulfill your resolutions while being kind to yourself!

Rights Part of US Foreign Policy

National Security Adviser Susan Rice has stressed support of LGBT rights remains an essential part of American foreign policy. "The United States remains firmly committed to promoting freedom, opportunity and prosperity everywhere," she said at a recent human rights summit in Washington, DC.

"We stand proudly for the rights of women, the LGBT community and minorities."

Rice noted President Obama spoke in support of LGBT rights during a June press conference in the Senegalese capital with the African country's president the day after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled a portion of the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional and struck down California's Proposition 8. Senegal is among the more than 70 countries in which homosexuality remains criminalized.

Politically Targeted, Spiritually Resilient

Bayard Rustin

By Michael G. Long

Two of America's gay heroes, civil rights leader Bayard Rustin and astronaut Sally Ride, were posthumously awarded the nation's highest civilian honor by President Barack Obama at a ceremony at the White House last November. Accepting the Presidential Medal of Freedom on their behalf were Rustin's partner, Walter Naegle, and Ride's partner, Tam O'Shaughnessy. Rustin and Ride were among 16 honorees, who included former President Bill Clinton and Oprah Winfrey, who were awarded the medal first established by President John F. Kennedy 50 years ago.

Bayard Rustin had just eight weeks to plan the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and by all accounts his leadership was visionary and masterful. It's also no doubt part of the reason that today he is posthumously receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The prestigious award, coupled with the attention he's received in media coverage of the anniversary, means Rustin is finally emerging from the shadows of history.

He's been there a long time.

As a former Communist, and especially as an openly gay man in the Age of Closets, Rustin often worked with colleagues who did their best to keep him deep in the long shadows they cast. The story of Rustin and Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1960 is particularly shocking.

In June of that year, Rustin arranged for King and the great labor leader A. Phillip Randolph to announce that they would lead nonviolent demonstrations at the national conventions of both parties. After hearing the announcement, Rep. (and Rev.) Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., of Harlem, wanted to squash the march on the Democrats, so he enlisted an intermediary to phone King with a threat: Unless the civil rights leader called off the march, Powell would tell the media that King and Rustin were having an affair.

"Bayard was just a forgiving person, especially toward Dr. King."

~Walter Naegle

They were not; the threat was hollow.

But King was not a profile in courage at this point. Fearful that such a rumor would irrevocably taint him, and feeling pressure from conservative Baptist ministers in the movement, he cut Bayard out of his inner circle of advisors.

It was a brutal act of discrimination.

Up until that moment Rustin had engineered much of the construction of Martin Luther King, Jr. He had schooled King in Gandhian nonviolence and tactics, ghostwritten some of his speeches and articles, built him his first national platform at the 1957 Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom, steered him to practice coalition politics with labor and liberals, and even helped to conceive and organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

Rustin was "crushed," according to Rachelle Horowitz, his longtime friend and assistant--crushed that he was no longer even in the shadows.

But King came calling again--two years later. During the Birmingham campaign in 1963, King longed yet again for Rustin's tactical advice--Rustin once said King could not organize a couple of vampires to go to a bloodbath--and took steps to reintegrate Rustin into the inner sanctum of advisors. Rustin "lit up," according to Horowitz, and went rushing back.

"Bayard was just a forgiving person, especially toward Dr. King," says Walter Naegle, Rustin's longtime companion.

Rustin was also resilient--a virtue he no doubt learned not only from the Prodigal Son, one of his favorite Bible stories, but also from Julia Rustin, his spiritually fierce grandmother, who reared him in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Schooled by the Quakers, Julia was a leader in her local AME Church, a founding member of the local NAACP branch, and a community activist dedicated to helping those in need, including her beloved grandson.

When West Chester's finest neglected to offer Rustin a scholarship for college, even though he had earned more "honor points" than any other graduating senior, Julia put on her nicest dress and started knocking on doors. Her determination paid off when she landed in the office of Bishop R. R. Wright, a wealthy AME minister in Philadelphia, who saw fit to help Rustin win a music scholarship to Wilberforce University in Ohio.

Bayard fondly remembered his grandmother as a "dealer in relieving misery." Year after year, she taught him to embrace not only the Quaker belief that the best way to set captives free is by using the spiritual weapons of nonviolence, but also the black church's conviction that God demands the liberation of the oppressed right here and right now. So whenever you have a chance to free the slaves, move it!

Rustin never stated his exact reasons for going back to King, but whatever the case may be, we are deeply indebted to him for returning to the fire. Because of his ability to forgive and move on, we learned how to march really well--how to harness our passion and use nonviolence and direct action techniques in pursuit of equal justice under law.

Perhaps even more important, Rustin taught us to believe in ourselves, in our own ability to transform individuals and societies steeped in discrimination, deaf to the calls of compassion, and yet never beyond redemption.

making sense of life

By Dr. Terry Drew Karanen

New Year's Resolutions

Did you make any New Year's resolutions for 2014? How's that going for you? In all honesty I hope you are doing well with your goals and reaping the benefits of focusing on what you want for yourself. However, the vast majority of people who create resolutions for the New Year find themselves discouraged before the year has barely begun.

One the common resolutions I hear from people is that they will get back to the gym. It is almost predictable that the first two or three weeks of January will find many gyms more crowded than normal. This is partly due to people receiving gym memberships as Christmas presents, partly due to seeing the results of several weeks of overindulgence looking back at us from the mirror, and partly due to a New Year's resolution to "get back to the gym."

If crowds bother you, just workout at home until about the 15th of the month; it'll clear out and be back to the normal numbers. Why? Lack of commitment and intention. Just because we "say" we want to do something doesn't mean we are really committed to doing all that it takes to follow through and see our goal fulfilled. And often, if our intention is predicated upon outside sources, we find our goals swiftly altered if that outside source falls out of favor with us.

Actually, I don't believe in making New Year's resolutions per se. That is not to say that I do not have goals that I work on or desires to change situations in my life. Quite to the contrary! But creating an artificial, one-time-a-year to make changes is counterproductive to having a life truly worth living. What's so special about the first of January anyway?

As humans we love to acknowledge beginnings and endings. That's a real blockage to living in the "now" and seeing beyond the confines of linear time, but I'll talk about that in my next column. The beginning of the New Year symbolically represents a "wiping the slate screen" event. A moment in time that in essence allows us a "life re-boot" of sorts. In truth, however, we can choose to change our lives and our experience any time of the year simply by changing our thinking. Once we make that decision to think differently about anything, taking the next step to the action part of change becomes a natural result.

I have three easy steps to follow if you would like to re-energize your New Year's resolutions or just make changes to your life in general. However, as I said in my last column, "simple" doesn't always mean "easy." So if you are looking for a "get-rich-quick" scheme or a ten-day plan to lose 50 pounds this probably is not going to be your cup of tea.

Step One: Identify your intention and your level of commitment to change. The key to your intention is YOUR intention. Not your partner's intention for you. Not what your parents feel should be right for you. Not societal pressure to conform to your physical gender, your current station in life, or what your career path says you should be doing. If we create goals that are diametrically opposed to our own desires or one with which we have no emotional attachment we are setting ourselves up to lose.

Commitment to change also requires some investigation. We must ask ourselves if our desire to achieve the goal is strong enough to commit one hundred percent to the path we will need to follow to get what we claim to want.

Step Two: Identify your goals. Take the five areas of life (health, finances, relationships, career and spiritual growth) and start writing down what you want to achieve or accumulate in those areas. Remember that it's not the "stuff" that makes us happy, but our intention behind what those things represent to us. Be creative, outrageous and have fun with it! Then take just one goal or desire from each area upon which to focus. Make these actions ones that you truly believe you achieve.

Step Three: Follow through. Write your five goals on a piece of paper you can keep with you and read them three times each day. Make them the first thing you do when you get up. Read them at least once during the day. And, commit to reading them once again before bed. Focus on them individually, visualize seeing yourself enjoying the benefits and knowing that it is possible for you.

Follow these three steps and you will see change in your life. Perhaps that's my caveat to you: Be sure that what you say you want to do next is *really* what YOU want to do!

Dr. Terry Drew Karanen is the Founder and Spiritual Leader of Center for Spiritual Living Cumberland Valley and a licensed social worker in private practice. For more information, see: newthoughtpa.org.

Attorney Cindy Villanella, left, and her client Nancy Nixon. On behalf of Nixon, Villanella is challenging the Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax as it applies to same-sex couples.

Woman Fights Tax (*cont'd from page*

nize her 31-year relationship to Schwartz as a common-law marriage. The bottom line is that if recognized as a common-law marriage, Nixon would not have to pay $21,000 in taxes, a tax that does not apply to opposite sex marriages or relationships recognized as common-law.

Technically, the state decided in 2005 that relationships started before that year, but not after, could be eligible for common-law recognition. Nixon's claim falls under that rule.

Nixon went before the state Board of Appeals of the Department of Revenue October 30.

"The suit seeks to have the state revoke the death tax of 15% imposed on the estate of her late partner, Jeanne Schwartz," Villanella explained. Currently, Pennsylvania defines marriage as between "one man and one woman," a measure signed into law in 1996 by then-Governor Tom Ridge, who now supports same-sex marriage. When the US Supreme Court was deciding on California's Proposition 8, Ridge signed an amicus curiae brief asking the court to support same-sex marriage.

"I don't think gay people realize what's ahead as they age and spouses die."

~ Nancy Nixon

Here's how the current inheritance tax laws calculate what's owed.

If you inherit money or other assets - real estate, bonds, securities, retirement funds - from someone to whom who are not related, you pay a 15% inheritance tax.

If you inherit money from a family member, a sibling for example, you pay a 4% inheritance tax.

If you inherit assets from a spouse, you do not pay the inheritance tax.

And therein is the problem. Nixon and Schwartz lived together for 31 years before Schwartz's death last year but their relationship is not recognized as a marriage.

"It's really a bind. Same-sex couples can't get married in Pennsylvania. If we marry in a state that allows same-sex unions, our marriage isn't recognized in Pennsylvania," Nixon explains.

"I don't think gay people realize what's ahead as they age and spouses die," she says.

Villanella warns that "Wills are not sufficient protection. Current law means that whatever assets you're left in a Will can be taxed as if you're a non-relative, at 15%.

In order to avoid the eventual higher tax, one local couple took an unusual step - adoption.

Together 44 years, John, 65, and Gregory (not his real name), 73, are now father and son, so to speak. Unable to get married in Pennsylvania, the long-time couple has circumvented the state's prohibition against same-sex unions.

"We adopted one another!" John said, told *Central Voice*. "We wanted to protect ourselves from higher inheritance taxes that heterosexual couples do no incur upon the death of one or other spouse," John explained.

Central Voice published the story the day before the US Supreme Court reversed the Federal Defense of Marriage Act and John and Gregory went international within hours as an example of the extremes to which couples must resort in order to work around laws that do not recognize their relationship. Practically speaking, there's money involved too.

Nixon said she fully expects her case to end up in the courts, and is confident she will succeed in getting the state to revoke $21,000 imposed on Schwartz's estate.

Nixon's case is identical to a Bethlehem widow, Barbara Baus, who has also filed a lawsuit seeking equal treatment under Pennsylvania's inheritance tax law. Baus and Catherine ("Cathy") Burgi-Rios resided together for more than 15 years when they married on April 29, 2011 in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Cathy died on September 21, 2012 at the age of 55, following complications from her year-long battle with leukemia.

The Dept. of Revenue in late November asked for dismissal of Baus' case. Both cases - Nixon and Baus - are "equal treatment" claims for same-sex couples under the state's inheritance-tax law. They want to be treated the same as a heterosexual, married couple.

That's not special treatment, that's equal treatment under the law," Villanella concludes.

legal column

By Leo L. Dunn, Attorney at Law

Estate Planning and Same-sex Marriage

Same-sex marriage being recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court did not change what you need to consider in estate planning. It made some things easier such as federal taxes, social security, and ERISA plans. I made some things more difficult such as federal taxes, divorce, and deciding when and whether to marry.

Estate planning is not a one size fits all exercise. It depends on you, your assets, your goals, your intended beneficiaries, and your stage of life. Generally, this breaks down into three major stages of adulthood. For GLBT individuals, care needs to be taken to make sure you are legally protecting the individuals who mean the most to you.

Stage One: ages 20-40 – Financial Stability Creation

During this period, most individuals and couples are working hard trying to make ends meet, pay off student loans and get small businesses or careers in high gear. All of their energy is focused on today and laying a foundation for tomorrow. During this period, couples need to think of the following legal documentation for estate planning:

Formalizing partnerships:
Cohabitation agreements
Marriage
Creating family connections:
Natural birth
Adoptions
Sperm/egg donors surrogacy
Child support/custody "pre-splits"
Guardianships
Protecting partner/family in case of early disability/death:
Living will/health care directive
Power of attorney
Will
Insurance

Stage Two: ages 40-60 – Estate Accumulation

During this period, most couples are past the paycheck-to-paycheck finances and starting to build equity and homes and businesses. They need to consider different issues and documentation:

Reducing taxation:
Differences in gift taxes
Tax bracket considerations
Allowable deductions and who should take them
Pre-nupt in case of divorce
Providing health insurances
Properly titling assets:
Joint ownership versus trust
Income and estate tax considerations
In case of divorce distribution agreements
Assuring ease of transition/continuity of business in case of death:
Succession plans
Insurance

Stage Three: Ages 60+ - Retirement and Elder Care

During this period, individuals and couples need to plan for proper care, maintenance of living arrangements and final passage. Final documentation needs to consider:

Providing for income stability
Maintenance of the home
Assuring proper health care (long term care insurance)
Keeping the couple together during end of life
Providing for assisted living or nursing care
Locating an appropriate place of retirement
Assuring desired disposition of remains

Unfortunately, you cannot just do a check list of "purchases" at each life stage and consider everything satisfactory. You actually need to sit down with your spouse/partner, discuss your goals and means, and decide what you want to occur and what is feasible given your assets and income. Once you've decided what you'd like to happen, you can them have a conversation with your attorney to determine what documents are best suited to your needs at that time.

Remember, it's your life and it will change over time so you will need to review all documents and update them on a regular basis every five to seven years.

Leo Dunn is an attorney and counselor-at-law practicing in the Harrisburg area with a focus on the estate planning needs of the GLBT community. He may be reached at leodunnlaw@gmail.com

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Start Up by Breaking Out

By Frank Pizzoli

When it's time to stop mooching space at your favorite coffee spot to run your business, where do you go?

Opened last March, St@rtUp's "co-working space" is available on a rental basis. The concept represents a trend in entrepreneurial circles to establish affordable alternatives to costly office rent. Within limits, the shared space concept allows you adapt your space to fit your needs.

St@rtUp co-founders Adam Porter and Adam Brackbill, 1519 N. 3rd St.

Harrisburg, recently hosted the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce in their 1,800 square foot space.

"We tell prospective members that we've put paint on the walls and connected the Wifi, but because this is an organic, community-driven organization, the rest is up to them," Porter explains. "Both the variety of businesses that comprise our membership and the pace at which they work requires of us that we anticipate their changing needs."

Members join on a monthly basis with rates based on time and space used.

"Part-time and 4-Day Pass members drop in, just like a coffee shop. They work from one of our community tables. Full-time members have their own dedicated desk, chair and file storage," Porter said. All members have shared use of the Wifi, conference room, copier, break room and parking.

The most important shared feature, however, is use of the business address. "We plan to expand to the second floor of our building early next year," Porter forecasts, allowing for more shared space, a few private offices for small work groups or private meetings.

Currently the facility has 18 member businesses - web and/or app developers, videographers, builders and small nonprofits.

"St@artUp allows a business to avoid big loans and control costs," says tenant David Cole Snook of Mx2 Designs, an events, entertainment planning and design company.

When searching for space, Snook found "that what is currently offered in the Harrisburg area isn't as flexible as I needed and those that are were either in a less-than-desirable location, or over-priced.

"The mainstream 'one-size-fits-all' shared-space companies out there come across as stuffy and corporate," Snooks says.

Snook relies heavily on partner and vendor relationships. The flow of other businesses and their partners moving through St@rtUp creates a natural networking environment.

"Every tenant has the chance to 'shop' all the other businesses there," Snook says. "That effortlessly opens a lot of doors."

A new arrival is OnlyHarrisburg.com, a quarterly non-profit magazine "produced by young professionals and students to serve the Harrisburg community," according to their mission statement.

"Right off we had an official address, meeting space, and a professional environment," says Shane Davenport. Like Snook, he also notes the exchange of information among tenants. "It's a creative environment full of energetic people."

Energy is what Josh Dominguez exudes.

He's located two of his endeavors there - a for-profit called Xtreme Clean Mobile and The Judah House Project he founded with his wife that offers music as a youth intervention program.

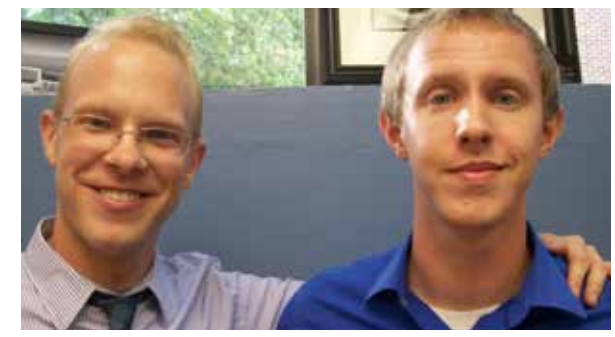
"It's all in one place for us. That's a real advantage," he says with confidence and determination. "We're mobile, we dispatch to a client's location. We move fast and don't want to be encumbered by the day-to-day responsibilities of an office. St@artUp is a professional setting that makes a good impression," he says. "We believe in the concept."

Another believer is Render Innovations owner Adam Brackbill, also St@rtUp co-owner.

"It's about cost for a start up. I use the space myself," Brackbill explains. He provides web development and graphic design. "In today's world it's about results not your business address."

"The best way to learn about co-working is to experience it first-hand. Schedule a tour," Porter said.

Info: www.startuphbg.com; 717-743-1091



Adam Porter and Adam Brackbill, co-founders of St@rtUp, 1519 N. 3rd St. Harrisburg, recently hosted the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

ST@ARTUP TENANTS

Josh Dominguez - The Judah House Project:
judahhouseproject.org

Xtreme Clean Mobile Detail:
xtmobiledetail.com

Tradesman Drywall:
tradesmandrywall.com

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eddylinemedia.com

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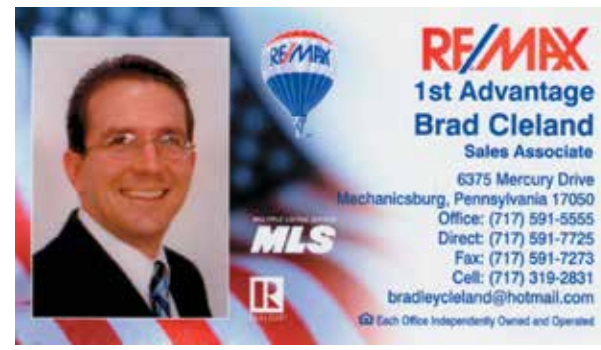

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Local Advocates Talked to Toomey Staffer on ENDA

By Central Voice

Alex Reber, along with Marele Kanuck, advocated for ENDA vote.

Four advocates for LGBT issues last November spoke with a Harrisburg staffer for Pennsylvania's US Sen. Pat Toomey. They shared personal stories and asked about the senator's position regarding the Employment Non-discrimination Act (ENDA) expected to be voted on today by the US Senate.

Reber

The advocates were Marlene Kanuck, Pennsylvania Dept. of Education and a founding member of the LGBT Community Center of Central Pennsylvania; Alex Reber, David Madsen, and Nathan Groff, representing the Equality PA. Kanuck and Reber are local advocates.

"All in all it was a pretty positive experience," Reber tells Central Voice.

Collectively, the group shared personal stories of why a Federal job protection is important.

"I left a job in a small, rural school district in order to work for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which has protections for employees," Kanuck explained.

Toomey ultimately decided to vote in favor of ENDA which drew a 64-32 vote ensuring passage. The measure now moves the US House where observers say it has little chance of passing.

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Ask Dr. del Sol:

Q: My parents had heart disease, and very bad teeth – is there a relationship between the two?

Tammy del Sol: There are more and more studies showing links between periodontal disease (the oral infection of your gums and the bone that supports your teeth) and heart disease. "Bad teeth" can be defined many ways – but if you mean that they had many teeth extracted because they eventually became loose and infected, then your folks probably were dealing with perio disease. Bacteria that causes perio disease, courses through your blood stream. Researchers have discovered that the periodontal disease-causing bacteria is the same bacteria lined in the arteries of people with heart disease. So yes, there is a link. The exact pathway or relationship between the two is not clear yet. *(Check out more, at WebMD.com)*

Q: I don't want to have heart disease. Are you saying that if I brush and floss I won't get heart disease?

TdS: No, I am not saying that. What I am saying is that there is a link between the two diseases. The verdict is still out on exactly how they are tied to each other. It's kind of like the chicken and the egg mystery. But let's look at it this way: Why contribute to heart disease if we don't have to?? Brush several times a day. Thoroughly. Get a water pik and use it, every day. Eliminate as much bacteria from getting into your blood stream as possible. See your dentist at least twice a year for regular exams and hygiene appointments. Ask them how good a job you are doing with your home care. Ask them to give you tips on how you can do a better job.

Q: My parents had dentures. I guess after you lose all your teeth, you don't have to worry about all that nasty periodontal bacteria in your bloodstream anymore.

TdS: Guess again. I can't tell you how many folks I see who have dentures or partials who do not know how to properly clean them. As a result, those people still have tons of bacteria coursing through their bloodstream from all the debris and plaque left on those dentures. Even though someone may have full dentures, it is still important for them to come in and see their dentist at least once a year so that we can make sure they are taking good care of their denture and cleaning it well. We also like to do a oral cancer screening at that time and make sure everything looks good. Oral cancers, suspicious lesions may still occur after someone gets dentures. Always better safe than sorry.

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